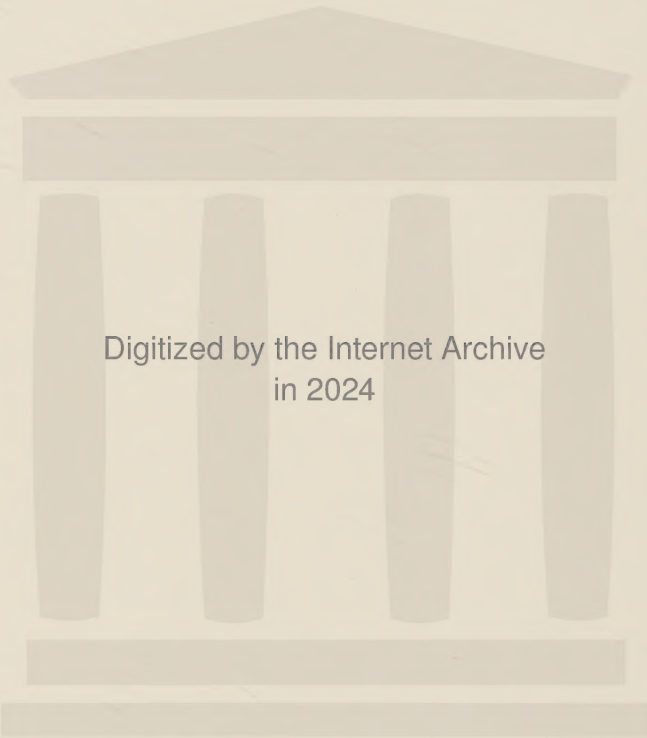


CASEBOOK

on the MEN IN BLACK

JIM KEITH



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CASEBOOK

ON THE MEN IN BLACK

JIM KEITH

IllumiNet
PRESS

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Dedicated, with endless gratitude and affection, to my family.

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Introduction

Basic Black

Since ancient times, the color black has been identified with evil. The explanation may be as simple as the primitive fear of the dark: in the primeval forest, no less than in the inner city, darkness is an evil thing. This fear may even be so ingrained in mankind as to exist as a genetic imprint, as an internal relic as ancient as the trilobite. Whether this is true or not, fear of the dark is a deeply imprinted phobia in all the societies and times that we know of.

According to the occult historian and Freemason Manly P. Hall:

Primitive conceptions concerning the warfare between the principles of Good and Evil were often based upon the alternations of day and night. During the Middle Ages, the practices of black magic were confined to the nocturnal hours; and those who served the Spirit of Evil were called black magicians, while those who served the Spirit of Good were called white magicians. Black and white were associated respectively with night and day, and the endless conflict of light and shadow is alluded to many times in the mythologies of various peoples.¹

The color black has waxed significant in the practice of magic. In the classic *The Golden Bough: A Study in Magic and Religion*, Sir James Frazer recites magical applications of the color black used in summoning rain in primitive cultures:

Thus in New Caledonia the rain-makers blackened themselves all over, dug up a dead body, took the bones to a cave, jointed them,

and hung the skeleton over some taro leaves... Rain-makers among the Brahmins of India '...had to observe certain rules of life, among which were the following. Thrice a day he had to touch water; he must wear black garments and eat black food...' The ancient Lithuanians, 'in time of drought, when they wanted rain, they used to sacrifice a black heifer, a black he-goat, and a black cock to the thunder god in the depth of the wood.' Among the Wambugwe of East Africa, when the sorcerer desires to make rain, 'he takes a black sheep and a black calf and sacrifices them...' In order to procure rain the Wagogo sacrifice black fowls, black sheep, and black cattle at the graves of dead ancestors, and the rain-maker wears black clothes during the rainy season. Among the Matabele the rain-charm employed by sorcerers was made from the blood and gall of a black ox. In a district of Sumatra... A black cat is thrown into the stream and made to swim about for a while, then allowed to escape... The Garos of Assam offer a black goat on the top of a very high mountain in the time of drought... So the Bechuanas burn the stomach of an ox at evening, because they say 'The black smoke will gather the clouds and cause the rain to come.' The Timorese sacrifice a black pig to the earth goddess for rain... The Angoni sacrifice a black ox for rain... Among the high mountains of Japan there is a district in which, if rain has not fallen for a long time, a party of villagers goes in a procession to the bed of a mountain torrent, headed by a priest, who leads a black dog... that is sacrificed.²

Blackness equates with evil and magic in the emergent mind of Homo Sapiens, but a less-noted association of the color is with outer space. Consider that the black stones of the Temple of the Sun at Lake Titicaca in Peru are said to have been brought by Orejona, the mother of humanity, from the planet Venus. In Mecca, the metallic black cube called the Kaaba is said to have been delivered from the sky by angels and given to Abraham. Adepts of materialistic science call this artifact a meteorite, without having actually examined it, while the black Stone of Apollo is also thought by some to have been a meteorite.³

And sometimes darkness coalesces in the shape of men. Since earliest recorded times, stories have been told of encoun-

ters with strange and sinister persons garbed in the hue of midnight.

In the Macumba religion, transplanted to the New World from Africa, the Men in Black correspond to two well-known presiding spirits or "saints." One is known as Omulu, or "Old Black," and he dresses in a black robe and sides with evil in the struggle for earthly dominion. Omulu's preferred haunt is the cemetery, and if there is a freshly buried body there, all the better. The other spirit is Exu or Elegba, who similarly commands the forces of quimbanda, or black magic, and corresponds in the African mythos to the Christian Devil. He sports a black suit and top hat, and his favorite locale (like that of many another spooky disincorporate entity) is the crossroads.⁴

The view of fairies as tiny winged sprites is apparently a sanitization crafted by Shakespeare, but fairies were traditionally viewed as being malevolent and human-sized, as were the trolls of Scandinavian legend. In olden times the terms 'fairy,' 'troll,' and 'witch' were synonymous in most usage's, and fit the description of the Men in Black (currently referred to in the jargon of researchers by the acronym 'MIB'; plural 'MIBs').

The anthropologist Margaret A. Murray, famed for her studies of witchcraft, wrote:

The fairy woman of modern Ireland is described as being like a respectable house-keeper dressed in black; and as it is impossible to distinguish these terrible and terrifying visitants from ordinary folk by their appearance and dress, it is advisable not to admit a stranger to the house or to show hospitality to an unknown visitor while any serious domestic work, such as churning, is in progress, lest the stranger should prove to be one of the Good People [i.e. a fairy].⁵

Judging from an abundance of accounts, the Men in Black prefer to travel in threes, and British ufologist David Clarke has stated that, "The 'Trinity of Evil' consisting of the Devil and his two lieutenants provides the mythological comparison to the three Men in Black. A French manuscript of the history of the

Holy Grail contains a drawing of the Trinity of Evil pondering the birth of the magician Merlin.”⁶

The advent of Newtonian, deterministic science circa 1700 seems to have temporarily banished the Men in Black, but with the resurgence of the occultism of adepts like Helena Blavatsky and Aleister Crowley, and the quantum physics of men like Einstein, Heisenberg, Planck, and Bohr, the conceptual doors were blown back off of reality, allowing the Men in Black to silently creep back in.

Now, in the 20th century, these darklings morphed, and were mostly observed in association with UFO sightings and in the silencing of witnesses to UFOs. The term ‘MIB’ also mutated in its usage by researchers into a generic definition that includes mysterious or sinister humanoid visitants not always wishing to make a gothic fashion statement.

John A. Keel devotes a good portion of his classic *The Mothman Prophecies* to encounters with the Men in Black. He states that,

While chimeras can come in all sizes and shapes, ranging from twenty-foot giants to animated tin cans only a few inches in height, the most fascinating type is one who has appeared in almost every country on earth. In other ages he was regarded as the devil incarnate. He dressed in black and rode a black horse. Later he arrived in black horse-drawn carriages, even in hearses. Today he steps out of flying saucers in remote farm fields. He is built exactly like us, stands from five feet six inches to six feet tall, looks very human but has high cheekbones, unusually long fingers, and an Oriental cast to his features. His complexion is olive or reddish. He speaks every language, sometimes mechanically as if he is reciting a memorized speech, sometimes fluently. He has trouble breathing, often wheezing and gasping between words. Like our dinosaurs and hairy bipeds, he often leaves a few footprints behind... footprints which suddenly end as if he had vanished into thin air.⁷

So appear the Men in Black, skulking about today much as they did in the Middle Ages.

I began research into the topic with a good deal of trepida-

tion, none of it having to do with fear of the odd creatures themselves. The subject is unlike any that I have written about, and it quickly became apparent to me that it is almost impossible for the researcher to objectively grapple with these sometimes ectoplasmic strangelings and their nightmarish doings. Their lore is too strange, their M.O. far too reminiscent of Bela Lugosi in his decline.

Superstition, hoaxing, and paranoia are no doubt the source of many Men in Black yarns. But, as you will see, the recurring nature of the tales, the repetition of a large number of significant events, and the apparent honesty of many of the unwilling participants in these encounters belie a strict reductionist approach. Poring over the hundreds of strange encounters that comprise the MIB mythos, it becomes apparent that there must be something of substance to some of these tales.

Incidents of the Men in Black straddle mysticism and science, occultism and UFOs, material reality and fantasy; partaking of all, defined by none. Muddled in hearsay, disinformation, tabloid journalism, and thirty-third-hand accounts, for every mystery of the Men in Black that is solved, another three present themselves with a dark flourish. In bold, researching these encounters is not the same thing as wondering about who shot John Kennedy; at least there the majority of participants in the plot seem to have been human.

The present volume is an exploration of a shadowy and intangible — and sometimes plainly crazy — phenomenon. For this reason incidents are taken into account which are strange, unverifiable, and even on occasion wholly impossible — all in the search for connecting links and clues in this tangled mystery. Early on in the research I realized that unless the impossible — as well as the strictly mundane — is taken into account, we will never approach a solution to the riddle of the Men in Black.

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Part 1

Black Arts

"There be three kindes of fairies, the black, the white, and the green, of which the black be the woorst."

— The Examination of John Walsh, 1556

The first undeniable Men in Black are encountered in European witchery and the celebration of the sabbat. During the Middle Ages 'the Black Man' was a term synonymous with Satan, while the Devil was reliably said to travel in the form of a black dog, cat, or other creature. In grimoires of the period witches are often depicted garbed in black, sometimes wearing the familiar pointed hats and riding brooms, while celebrants of the Black Mass are referred to as 'black priests.'

Anthropologist Margaret A. Murray noted in *The God of the Witches* that, "...the Chief or Grandmaster [at the witch's sabbat] was more horror-striking and awful when called Satan, the Foul Fiend, the Enemy of Salvation, the Prince of Darkness, or other epithet of the kind than when soberly alluded to as the Man in Black." But was he more correctly referred to in this way?

Murray also informs us that in the witch ceremony, "Everything was black; the bread was black, being made of rye; the drink was black and pungent, being probably some kind of drink like the holy heather-beer of the Picts; the lights were black, for they were torches dipped in resin or pitch which gives a blue flame. The Chief was disguised as a black goat and displayed the sacred bread on his horns; he took the sacred wine and

sprinkled it on the kneeling people, while they cried out in chorus, 'his Blood be on us and on our children.'

Carbon copy details are impressed throughout the ages.

1

Demons and Witches

In France in 1490, participants in the Sabbat admitted that they had trampled a crucifix and had worshipped a “tall, dark man.”¹

— In France in 1520, two shepherds confessed that they had on several occasions met with a tall, dark man who informed them that he was the Devil’s bondsman. One of the shepherds, Burgot, confessed that he had knelt before the dark apparition and renounced Church and God. After completing their dark compact, the shepherds then killed five people and ate them. When they were caught, the local tribunal sentenced the shepherds to be burned at the stake.²

— In 1577 Catherine Doree sacrificed her child to a tall dark man, convinced that he was Satan in human form. She also was tried in court and immolated for her crime.³

— During the witchcraft trials of Dr. Fian and his associates in 1590-91 (that exposed a witch cabal allegedly planning to assassinate the future British monarch, James I), Agnes Sampson confessed: “The deuell was cled in ane blac gown with ane blak hat vpon his head... His faice was terrible, his noise lyk the bek of ane eagle, greet bournyng eye; his handis and leggis wer herry, with clawes vpon his handis, and feit lyk the griffon.”⁴

Judge Boguet, a contemporary of Dr. Fian, remarked that when he had questioned the witches they confessed that Satan had appeared to them, “sometimes in the shape of a tall dark man... To express their worship and homage, they made him an offering of candles, which burned with a blue light.” Dr. Fian, when engaged in diabolic worship, “thought he saw the light of

a candle... which appeared blue lowe." The blue light phenomenon often figures in modern day UFO-associated MIB cases. Echos between past and future will continue to be noted.⁵

— In 1603 in southern France a young man confessed to having kidnapped and eaten a child. He claimed he had been ordered to do so by a person known as the Lord of the Forest, to whom he was a bonds slave. He described him as being a tall dark man who wore only black and rode a black stallion.⁶

— In France in 1610, a father and his son confessed that they had acted as bankers for the Devil, and that money had been delivered to them by a tall, dark confederate of the Evil One.⁷

— Silvain Nevillon confessed in 1614 to his participation in a Black Mass in France. A contemporary account reported that, "the Sabbat was held in a house... He saw there a tall dark man opposite to the one who was in a corner of the ingle, and this man was perusing a book, whose leaves seemed black & crimson, & he kept muttering between his teeth although what he said could not be heard, and presently he elevated a black host and then a chalice of some cracked pewter, all foul and filthy."⁸

— In 1633 in Lancashire, England, Margaret Johnson "met a spirit or devil in a suit of black tied about with silk points." The MIB instructed her to call him Mamilion, "and in all her talk and conference she called the said Mamilion her god."⁹

— The Yarmouth witch, brought to trial in 1644, told the court that she had seen a tall black man standing in her doorway, and "he told her he must see her Hand; and then taking out something like a Pen-knife, he gave it a little Scratch so that Blood followed, and the Mark remained to that time."¹⁰

According to *The Lawes Against Witches and Conjuration*, published in 1645 'by Authority,' presumably that of the local jurisdiction, "the Devil leaveth markes upon their bodies, sometimes like a Blew-spot, or a Red-spot like a flea-biting."

Twenty years later it was reported of Christian Green, one of the Wincanton witches, that "the Man in Black prickt the fourth finger of her right hand between the middle and upper joints, where the sign yet remains."

Another account, *The Trial of Witchcraft*, published early in the 18th century, explained that:

The witch mark is sometimes like a blew spot, or a little tate, or reid spots, like a flea biting; sometimes also the flesh is sunk in, and hollow, and this is put in secret places, as among the hair of the head, or eye-brows, within the lips, under the arm-pits, and in the most secret parts of the body.

These ‘Devil’s marks’ and ‘nips’ (including ones that are “scooped-out” of the flesh) are strikingly similar to the marks left in UFO abduction cases in more recent times.¹¹

— Other correspondences between antique accounts and modern tales of UFOs and the Men in Black abound. In 1645 Mrs. Bash, a witch of Suffolk, England, confessed that the Devil had appeared to her as a dark, swarthy youth who was “colder than a man.” Seventeen years later, Isobel Gowdie and Janet Breadheid of the Auldearn coven in the Scottish Highlands, said that the Devil was “a meikle, blak, rock man, werie cold,” and also reported that he was always clad in black. Gowdie told the court, “His members are exceeding great and long. No man’s members are so long and big as they... and I found his nature as cold within me as spring-well water. He is abler for us than any man can be, only he is heavy like a malt sack — a huge nature, very cold, as ice.” The coldness mentioned in these witchcraft cases as well as the suggestive “long members” are reiterated in Men in Black tales to the present.¹²

— On April 16, 1648 the peasant Bartolomea Golizza appeared before the Holy Office in Italy to admit acts of witchcraft, confessing that she had attended a sabbat where she had observed “the devil in the shape of a ram, who then transformed himself into a fine gentleman with a large plumed hat, wholly dressed in black velvet, with long sleeves also made of velvet.”¹³

— In 1662 in England, Kattrein Scott and a group of fellow witches were visited by a “black man,” who sang to them and gave them food.¹⁴

— It was said of the Somerset witches that in 1664 they had

attended a sabbat where “they had Wine, Cakes, and Roastmeat (all brought by the Man in Black) which they did eat and drink. They danced and were merry, and were bodily there and in their Clothes.” In the annals of the same trial,

The Devil baptized a Picture by the name of Ann or Rachel Hatcher. This Picture one Dunsford’s Wife brought, and stuck Thorns in it — When they would bewitch Man, Woman, or Child, they do it sometimes by a Picture made in Wax, which the Devil formally baptizeth. — Ann Bishop brought in her Apron a Picture in blackish Wax, which the Devil baptized by the Name of John Newman, and then the Devil first, after Ann Bishop, thrust Thorns into the Picture, Ann Bishop sticking in two Thorns into the Arms of it. — Margaret Agar brought thither an Image in Wax, and the Devil, in the shape of a Man in black Clothes, did baptize it, and after stuck a Thorn into its Head.¹⁵

— Susanna Edwards of Devonshire, England, alleged to be a witch by her prosecutors, in 1682 remembered that, “about two years ago she did meet with a gentleman in a field called the Parsonage Close in the town of Biddiford. And saith that his apparel was all black. Whereupon the gentleman drawing near unto this examinant, she did make a curchy or courtesy unto him, as she did use to do to gentlemen. Being demanded what and who the gentleman she spoke of was, the said examinant answered and said, That it was the Devil.”

Temperence Lloyd also confessed to being a witch and that she had met a “black man,” also near Biddiford.¹⁶

— 1692 in Salem, Massachusetts, was a boom year for Men in Black. Tituba, a West Indian slave, told of meeting “a tall man with white hair in black clothes.” In his company was “another thing, hairy, it goes upright like a man, it hath only two legs.” Could this have been a sasquatch? These creatures are also known to show up occasionally in the vicinity of UFOs, and to prowl areas experiencing UFO “flaps.”¹⁷

— In the same year, in Salem, Elizabeth Paris said that she had met a “great black man” who had convinced her to become a witch, with the promise that all of her wishes would be fulfilled

and that she would be spirited to a "Golden City," while Mary Lacy, allegedly involved in a local coven, told of a rendezvous with a black man in a high-crowned hat.¹⁸

— Also in Salem in 1692, Joseph Ring said he was carried paralyzed but conscious to a witch's sabbat by "unknown shapes." At the meeting he was told that if he signed the witch's book he would have every wish granted. At the witchcraft trial of Rev. George Burroughs it was claimed that he was the "black man" who had offered the book at the sabbat, while contradictory testimony said that the black man "resembles an Indian." This is another familiar detail in latterday MIB accounts (as well as in the practice of spiritualism), where the visitants are often described as being Oriental, Indian, or heavily tanned.¹⁹

— In 1730 a 13-year-old Norwegian girl informed witch-hunters that, six years earlier, she and her grandmother had travelled on the back of a pig to a clandestine assignation with Satan. They had met three Men in Black that her grandmother spoke of as "Grandfather's boys." Sitting at the dining table with Satan, the grandmother referred to him as "Grandfather."²⁰

— During this era the Men in Black materialized in another macabre context. The bubonic plague or Black Death in Europe was often heralded by sightings of comets, anomalous lights, and sundry demonic entities, and by an apparent army of Men in Black. An account published in 1682 reported,

"In Brandenburg [Germany] there appeared in 1559 horrible men, of whom at first fifteen and later on twelve were seen. The foremost had beside their posteriors little heads, the others fearful faces and long scythes, with which they cut at the oats, so that the swish could be heard at a great distance, but the oats remained standing. When a quantity of people came running out to see them, they went on with their mowing." This appearance of strange men — if they were men — was followed by an outbreak of the plague.²¹

— In Hungary a rash of Men in Black were recorded: "...in the year of Christ 1571 was seen at Cremnitz in the mountain towns of Hungary on Ascension Day in the evening to the great perturbation of all, when on the Schuelersberg there appeared

so many black riders that the opinion was prevalent that the Turks were making a secret raid, but who rapidly disappeared again, and thereupon a raging plague broke out in the neighborhood.”²²

— In 1680 in Thuringia, it was reported, “That between Eisenberg and Domberg thirty funeral biers all covered with black cloth were seen in broad daylight, among them on a bier a black man was standing with a white cross. When these had disappeared a great heat set in so that the people in this place could hardly stand it. But when the sun had set they perceived so sweet a perfume as if they were in a garden of roses. By this time they were all plunged in perturbation. Whereupon the epidemic set in in Thuringia in many places.”²³

From a survey of writings on the period, the witchcraft era of the Men in Black must certainly have been influenced by delusion; both that of the witches, and that of the witch-hunters. The mania of the witch-hunters can easily be demonstrated by the criteria which were often applied to suspected witches: a suspicious mole or wart could mean the suspect’s death. The testimony of a child was sometimes sufficient to seal a defendant’s doom. Catch-22 tests were also applied to suspected witches, so that the individual was proven to be a witch whether they succeeded or failed in the test. Still, a substantial body of evidence, and details consistent in disparate cultures suggest that there may have been more to the experience than delusion.

— The black magic and fairy association of the Men in Black continues sporadically into the 20th century. In 1901 near Edenberry, in the Clonmillan Shee area of Ireland (reputed to be a hotbed of fairy habitation), a Mr. Gowran observed a group of ghostly figures garbed in black, standing in a circle about 10 feet in diameter. They stood around a box that appeared to be a coffin, and on top of the box were bagpipes.

This incident coincides with a more modern one reported by Colin Wilson in *Poltergeist: A Study in Destructive Haunting*: “In August (18th) 1977, Stephen Jenkins and his wife in a spot near Borley Rectory saw four ‘men’ in black (black hoods and cloaked) carrying what appeared to be a black old fashioned

coffin ornately trimmed with silver." According to Wilson, the MIBs had faces resembling skulls and "shawls were draped around the top hats of the men."²⁴

— The winter of 1904-1905 was a bizarre one in the British Isles with a multitude of strange occurrences, including poltergeist phenomena, supernatural fires, at least four cases of human combustion, and other weird apparitions. According to the Barmouth Advertiser of March 30, 1905, "an exceptionally intelligent young woman of the peasant class was visited three nights in succession by a Man in Black. This figure has delivered a message to the girl which she is frightened to relate."

A Man in Black was also seen in Wales that winter. According to the same newspaper story: "During [religious revivalist] Mrs. Jones' visit to Brynchrug, in the neighborhood of Towyn, a similar apparition was seen from different standpoints, but simultaneously by (a) a local professional man and (b) a gentleman farmer of good standing. The former, startled, uttered an involuntary prayer. Immediately one of Mrs. Jones's mysterious 'Lights' appeared above, a white ray darting from which pierced the figure, which thereupon vanished."²⁵

— H.P. Lovecraft, considered by many aficionados to have been the finest writer of supernatural fiction in this century (and who arguably sprang from MIB breeding stock, judging from his photos), provided a fine denouement to the witchcraft school of MIBs in 1932. Lovecraft's story, "Dreams in the Witch House," tells of a condemned witch, Keziah Mason, who at the height of the Salem witch craze escaped a prison cell by extra-dimensional projection. Reappearing in modern times, Keziah enchants a student named Walter Gilman out of the material plane where he is confronted by "the black man... the deputy or messenger of hidden and terrible powers." Gilman learns that children are sometimes kidnapped on Earth, and taken for sacrifice into this other dark dimension, and ends up blithering that the black man will possess him and deliver him to the throne of the evil alien god Azathoth.

Lovecraft, although ostensibly writing fiction and privately disavowing any belief in the supernatural, is revered by many

modern occultist groups for his extraordinary otherworldly visions. Some of these groups, such as the Typhonian Ordo Templi Orientis and the two orders of the Starry Wisdom Sect that I know of, consider his fictional forays to be true representations of other dimensions, and have patterned their rituals and cosmology after Lovecraft's fantastical visions.

It is interesting that Frank Belknap Long, also a well-known writer of dark fantasy, recalls that Lovecraft met the young L. Ron Hubbard at a science fiction fan gathering in New York in the 1930s. According to Long, Lovecraft remarked that the enthusiastic young Hubbard would go far. Of course, he did, in a manner of speaking. Prior to founding the Church of Scientology, Hubbard participated in the 1940s in a magical working intended to create a Moonchild with ritual magician Jack Parsons, head of the Pasadena, California, Ordo Templi Orientis lodge. Many researchers of the fringe believe that the Hubbard/Parsons working opened up a dimensional doorway through which UFOs, Men in Black, Sasquatch, and other ultra-dimensional yahoos have subsequently plagued the planet. The Marcab extraterrestrials, of Hubbard's advanced Scientology levels (who according to LRH, hold the world in thrall), also provide a close counterpart to the Men in Black, a fact that I don't believe has ever been noted in print before.²⁶

— During the 1940s in Haiti, the populace was terrorized by a futuristic species of black magicians known as the zobop. They zoomed about the back roads in black cars known as auto-tigre ("tiger-cars") or motor-zobop, which projected a bluish beam that disabled their abductees. Most of these abductions took place in the area of Marbial.²⁷

There are certain consistent details in early Men in Black accounts that should be mentioned. These include the coldness often noted of the MIBs, their "long members," the marks sometimes left upon contactees, and the unnatural lights (UFOs?) often seen in association with them. The Men in Black are often seen to frequent crossroads, to be accompanied by blue lights and flames, and to travel in groups of three. These details appear in MIB accounts to the present day.

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2

Black Lodge

Related to the Men in Black are the mysterious strangers who appear and disappear at significant moments throughout the ages, contacting occultists, scientists, statesmen, and philosophers, and clueing them to cosmic truth, as well as laying the brickwork for occult secret societies such as the Rosicrucians and the Freemasons. A few representative accounts among hundreds will suffice:

— In the book *Our Flag*, Robert Allen Campbell tells of a mystery man at the time of the designing of the Colonial flag in 1775:

Little seems to have been known concerning this old gentleman; and in the materials from which this account is compiled his name is not even once mentioned, for he is uniformly spoken of or referred to as 'the Professor.' He was evidently far beyond his threescore and ten years; and he often referred to historical events of more than a century previous just as if he had been a living witness of their occurrence; still he was erect, vigorous and active — hale, hearty, and clear-minded — as strong and energetic every way as in the prime of his life...

He was well educated, highly cultivated, of extensive as well as varied information, and very studious. He spent considerable of his time in the patient and persistent conning of a number of rare old books and ancient manuscripts which he seemed to be deciphering, translating or rewriting... He was, in short, one whom everyone would notice and respect, whom few would feel well acquainted with, and whom no one would presume to question

concerning himself — as to whence he came, why he tarried, or whither he journeyed.

Freemason and occult authority Manly P. Hall expands upon the account,

By something more than a mere coincidence the committee appointed by the Colonial Congress to design a flag accepted an invitation to be guests, while in Cambridge, of the same family with which the Professor was staying. It was here that General Washington joined them for the purpose of deciding upon a fitting emblem. By the signs which passed between them it was evident that both General Washington and Doctor Franklin recognized the Professor, and by unanimous approval he was invited to become an active member of the committee. During the proceedings which followed, the Professor was treated with the most profound respect and all of his suggestions immediately acted upon. He submitted a pattern which he considered symbolically appropriate for the new flag, and this was unhesitatingly accepted by the other six members of the committee, who voted that the arrangement suggested by the Professor be forthwith adopted. After the episode of the flag the Professor quietly vanished, and nothing further is known concerning him.¹

— While walking in his garden at night, Thomas Jefferson was allegedly met by a mysterious dark-skinned man in a black cape, who gave him the original design for the Great Seal of the United States. According to paranormal researcher John Keel, “The seal is actually a reproduction of the lost city of Petra in northern Arabia, once controlled by a mysterious Arabian race known as Nabataeans. Many persons have described the ancient city as ‘half as old as time’ and it is obviously the work of a very advanced technology for its time.”²

— Manly P. Hall relates another example of mysterious intervention at the birth of the nation:

It was during the evening of July 4, 1776, that the second of these mysterious episodes occurred. In the old State House in Philadelphia a group of men were gathered for the momentous task

of severing the last tie between the old country and the new. It was a grave moment and not a few of those present feared that their lives would be the forfeit for their audacity. In the midst of the debate a fierce voice rang out. The debaters stopped and turned to look upon the stranger. Who was this man who had suddenly appeared in their midst and transfixed them with his oratory? They had never seen him before, none knew when he had entered, but his tall form and pale face filled them with awe. His voice ringing with a holy zeal, the stranger stirred them to their very souls. His closing words rang through the building: 'God has given America to be free!' As the stranger sank into a chair exhausted, a wild enthusiasm burst forth. Name after name was placed upon the parchment: the Declaration of Independence was signed. But where was the man who had precipitated the accomplishment of this immortal task — who had lifted for a moment the veil from the eyes of the assemblage and revealed to them a part at least of the great purpose for which the new nation was conceived? He had disappeared, nor was he ever seen again or his identity established. This episode parallels others of a similar kind recorded by ancient historians attendant upon the founding of every new nation. Are they coincidences, or do they demonstrate that the divine wisdom of the ancient Mysteries still is present in the world, serving mankind as it did of old?³

— In England in 1851, Madame Blavatsky, the influential occultist and founder of the Theosophical Society, first met a "Hidden Master," one of the transcendent souls working behind the earthly scene. The meeting took place in Hyde Park, London. Blavatsky believed the man to be Master Morya, a name still revered in some occult-spiritist circles.

Morya was to appear to Annie Besant in 1889, shortly after she had joined the Theosophical Society. Besant woke "to find the room thrown into pulsating waves, and then appeared the radiant astral figure of the master, visible to my physical eyes." Besant was also an occultic heavy-hitter, as well as being one of the founders of the Fabian Society, the group perhaps most influential in foisting the socialist New World Order on the planet.⁴

— Occultist Alice Bailey was alone in her room in 1895 when the door suddenly opened, and a tall man in European

clothing and Middle Eastern turban entered. The man informed her that one day he would impart an important task to her. Bailey joined the Theosophical Society in 1918, and was admitted to an inner circle "Esoteric Section." Entering the shrine room of the order, Bailey saw a painting of her mysterious visitor of 1895, and was informed that it was the Master Koot Hoomi. Bailey went on to form her own mystical groups, the Arcane School, and the still-functioning Lucis Trust, influential in propagating "New Age," "New World Order"-style religion in the 20th century.⁵

— The ritual magician S.L. MacGregor Mathers wrote in 1896 of his encounter with the mysterious Secret Chiefs:

As to the Secret Chiefs with whom I am in touch and from whom I have received the wisdom of the second Order which I communicate to you, I can tell you nothing. I do not even know their earthly names, and I have very seldom seen them in their physical bodies... they used to meet me physically at a time and place fixed in advance. For my part, I believe they are human beings living on this Earth, but possessed of terrible and superhuman powers... My physical encounters with them have shown me how difficult it is for a mortal, however 'advanced' to support their presence... I do not mean that during my rare meetings with them [that] I experienced the same feeling of intense physical depression that accompanies the loss of [animal] magnetism. On the contrary, I felt I was in contact with a force so terrible that I can only compare it to the shock one would receive from being near a flash of lightning during a great thunder storm, experiencing at the same time great difficulty in breathing... the nervous prostration I spoke of was accompanied by cold sweats and bleeding from the nose, mouth and sometimes the ears.

One of Mathers' encounters was described by occult-scribe Israel Regardie:

While walking in the Bois de Bologne one day, meditating... Mathers claimed triumphantly that he was approached by three men. He asserted that these were Adepts belonging to the hidden or Secret Third Order, and therefore belonged to that category of men

described in *The Cloud Upon the Sanctuary*. Apparently, so he claims, they had materialized themselves, and in that tense emotional and spiritual atmosphere of psychical phenomena, confirmed him in the sole rulership of the Order [of the Golden Dawn].⁶

— Henry Steel Olcott describes another encounter with a “Mysterious Stranger,” K.H. [probably Koot Hoomi], in Lahore, India:

I was sleeping in my tent, the night of the 19th, when I rushed back towards external consciousness on feeling a hand laid on me. The camp being on the open plain, and beyond the protection of the Lahore police, my first animal instinct was to protect myself...

‘Do you not know me? Do you not remember me?’ It was the voice of the Master K.H. A swift revulsion of feeling came over me, I relaxed my hold on his arms, joined my palms in reverential salvation, and wanted to jump out of bed to show him respect. But his hand and voice stayed me, and after a few sentences had been exchanged, he took my left hand in his, gathered the fingers of his right into the palm, and stood quiet beside my cot, from which I could see his divinely benignant face by the light of the lamp... Presently, I could feel some soft substance forming in my hand, and the next minute the Master laid his kind hand on my forehead, uttered a blessing, and left... I found myself holding in my left hand a folded paper enwrapped in a silken cloth.

The letter that K.H. passed on predicted that two enemies of the Theosophical Society would soon die and, as it happened, they did.⁷

The origin of the “Mysterious Stranger” contingent seems plain in most instances. Everything suggests that, if the encounters were not in fact invented, then they were human emissaries of Illuminist philosophy, the secret society propagators of gnostic and qabalistic religion from which Rosicrucianism, Freemasonry, the Illuminati, and other occult orders arose. Secret this group is and, depending upon whom one asks, perhaps even sinister, but human and explainable.

How does all this relate to the Men in Black? Within the

occult tradition it has long been believed that there is a polarity of forces operant and struggling for dominion on Earth. They have been called the White Brotherhood, who are dedicated to the perfecting of humanity, and the Black Lodge, who are intent on suppressing the higher possibilities of mankind.

Although assumed to be a "black" magician outside of occult circles, Aleister Crowley is believed by many cognoscenti to have been aligned with "white" purposes. As he said in *Magick Without Tears*, "What I am out to complain of is what I seriously believe to be an organized conspiracy of the Black Lodges to prevent people from thinking."

Typhonian O.T.O. head Kenneth Grant has defined what he calls "the formula of the Black Brothers: isolation and rejection of the universal life-current."⁸

Ufologist and gnostic Bishop Rev. Allen Greenfield has written,

Concurrently, and not coincidentally, the two great initiatory bodies, or orders have been generated and regenerated throughout history; the so-called Great White Brotherhood, which, when undistorted, appears (according to legend) guided by intelligences associated with the dual star system Sirius or Sothis in some manner, and which seems to have the purpose of uplifting human character and initiating biological and social evolution designed to move towards identification with Ultimate Being, and what is sometimes called 'The Black Lodge,' which may associate with the gnostic Demiurge or Phil Dick's VALIS [Vast Active Living Intelligence System], which is generated to keep humanity in a state of materialist trance and evolutionary stagnation...

The Black Lodge may be defined as the ORGANIZED institution guided by VALIS for the purpose of holding back human evolution, keeping a slave-mentality in place. Its human leaders are the 'black brothers' who are not to be mistaken for mere black magicians. Indeed, Aleister Crowley observed that 'the Black Magician' or Sorcerer is hardly even a distant cousin of the 'Black Brother.' The difference between a sneak-thief and a Hitler is not too bad an analogy...' The Black Brothers are highly advanced

adepts of the art who have simply, as the popular phrase goes, 'been seduced by the dark side of the Force.'...

It is known that the Black Lodge, which, as it opposes evolution, inherently fights a rear-guard action, has made unceasing war on the Great White Brotherhood in the West from the beginnings of the magical revival. Indeed, fallen and failed adepts of the Great White Brotherhood have become the tools and pawns of the Black Lodge, from Mathers to Hubbard and beyond. It would seem that the immediate goal of the Black Brothers is to delay the Manifestation of the New Aeon, the birth of the magical child and the realization of the ubermensch through diversion of the Will-current into less than useless power plays, demoralizing materialist and superstitious delusions, new age jargon, etc...⁹

The Men in Black of modern ufology effortlessly translate into this context. By hushing up witnesses to UFOs it may be speculated that they are stifling communication about what lies in realms more ethereal and advanced than our own, thus impeding human evolution. The Men in Black also demonstrate a clear dichotomy with the "Mysterious Strangers," who would seem to fall within the context of the White Brotherhood, given that the information imparted is in most cases advanced scientific concepts, rarified occultism, or democratizing political concepts.

— In 1930 Miss Stoddard (writing under the pseudonym 'Inquire Within'), in her book *Light-bearers of Darkness*, spoke of her experiences as high priestess of the Stella Matutina occult order, an offshoot of the more famous Golden Dawn lodge in which Crowley was originally initiated. She recalled events that took place during an initiation in a London church:

Without warning, the Lord of Light and his Twelve Brethren attempted to give the Chief this initiation... Briefly before the entrance of the officiating clergy, the Chief saw in place of the altar the Great Vault of the Inner Order, into which the Twelve Brethren, in black habits with cowls over their heads, were hurriedly entering, and almost at once a dazzling light was focused upon the Chief, and above in this astral fire was the Lord of Light.

Stoddard said of these black cowled men: “There are, then, mysterious men — still in the body of the flesh — who appear astrally, and do establish etheric links, and build up channels through which they can prepare the world for the so-called ‘Pentecostal flame’ or World Illuminism...”

Stoddard also reported, “Our own belief is that they are a group of flesh-and-blood men, who can form etheric links from any distance, with the leaders of these societies, and who secretly work by means of that Light which ‘can slay or make alive’, intoxicating, blinding, and, if need be, destroying unwary men and women, using them as instruments or Light-bearers...”¹⁰

Factions of the Black Lodge apparently include such groups as the adepts of medieval Tibet, and the Thule, Vril, and related occult societies of 19th/20th century Germany who were instrumental in bringing the Nazis to power. These organizations demonstrate similarities in their symbologies, employing skulls, lightning bolts, swastikas, and similar devices.

In latter-day Men in Black encounters they are sometimes seen to wear the ‘eye in the triangle’ symbol as their only device, and MIBs have also stated that they are representatives of “the Nation of the Third Eye.” The most likely candidate for this nation would be Tibet, given their lore of the astral optic nerve, although the Black Lodge may, to its members, comprise a nation without physical boundaries.

When the Nazis came to power in Germany, even though many of its higher functionaries were occultists, certain German mystical groups were suppressed, including Freemasonry, the Ordo Templi Orientis lodge, and the Theosophy-derived Anthroposophy of Rudolph Steiner. Aleister Crowley, at the same time, was employed by the British in a secret, occult war — or at least astral skirmish — against the Nazis.

Another linkage of the MIBs to occultism and Crowley is provided by Greenfield when mentioning the “praeterhuman intelligence” Aiwaz who appeared to Crowley in Cairo in 1904, proffering the mystically seminal *The Book of the Law*. According to Crowley, Aiwaz appeared suspended in a cloud, and had

veiled eyes, black hands with long, pointed nails, and bejewelled fingers.¹¹

Latter-day darklings like Anton LaVey — head of the Church of Satan — and Michael Aquino — leader of the Church of Set and highly placed in Army Intelligence Psychological Operations — would also seem to fit into the Black Lodge scheme.

Is the identification as simple as that, that the modern Men in Black, at least some of them, are operatives of the Black Lodge? The Tibetan connection would explain the Oriental features commonly noted in MIB encounters, and Tibetan adepts are known to have been imported, for their mystical acumen, to Nazi Germany, and are also reported to have been drawn into the ranks of the CIA at the mid-century mark, the latter event taking place precisely when a surge in Men in Black activity is noted in America.

An interesting speculation I have heard is that the Men in Black, at least some of them, are agents of the Vatican. The theory is that the Roman church may see paranormal activity not linked with their religion as a serious threat to their monopoly on miracles, as a distraction from supernatural occurrences of a more 'catholic' sort. Certainly, the MIBs are initially mistaken as 'men of the cloth' by many of those whom they visit.

Further substantiating this theory is that in 1693 a Roman Catholic secret society called the Knights of the Apocalypse was founded in Italy, with the avowed purpose of combatting the Antichrist. Could it be that these knights still exist (as so many other old churchly orders do, such as the Knights of Malta, the Jesuits, and the Franciscans), and that they see UFOs as agents of the Antichrist?¹²

Is there a strange war being conducted between occult forces of light and darkness? A good deal of evidence suggests that there is. Are the Men in Black, at least some of them, members of the Black Lodge or another occult secret society? Although so far no smoking wand exists, circumstantial evidence suggests that it may be so.

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Part 2

Black Ops

Credibility, in fact, lies at the heart of the problem of developing a political substitute for war. This is where the space race proposals, in many ways so well-suited as economic substitutes for war, fall short. The most ambitious and unrealistic space project cannot of itself generate a believable external menace. It has been hotly argued that such a menace would offer the 'last, best hope of peace' by uniting mankind against the danger of destruction by 'creatures' from other planets or from outer space. Experiments have been proposed to test the credibility of an out-of-our-world invasion threat: it is possible that a few of the more difficult-to-explain 'flying saucer' incidents of recent years were in fact early experiments of this kind...

— *Report from Iron Mountain
on the Possibility and Desirability of Peace*

Malefic visitations of the Men in Black have persisted into the irreligious 20th century. Now the lore usually has little truck with deviltry, but is more often associated with the current face of the unknown: with UFOs, and sometimes with political conspiracy. After the era when witchcraft provided the catch-all popular explanation for the unknown, we were stripped of the convenience of calling these weird intruders demons... but apparently the same gruesome dramatis personae continued to stiffly strut their stuff.

Not all incidents of the Men in Black, however, are unexplainable, many exhibiting no paranormal trappings at all. Instead, some MIB encounters seem to be interventions by the military, government intelligence, or other human agency.

These incidents often involve the silencing or attempted silencing of UFO witnesses. These clandestine operations have never been admitted to by the Powers That Be, but given our knowledge of disinformation and trickery by the government in UFO and other matters, this remains a credible explanation for many MIB incidents.

I fully realize that the majority of the cases I will chronicle have not been conclusively proven to be connected to the activities of government, but that is missing the point. These incidents provide a large body of consistent and corroborative evidence supporting this theory, and a credible explanation for a portion of MIB encounters.

Maury Island

A Man in Black appears at the modern dawn of ufology, on June 21, 1947. Three days before Kenneth Arnold observed the UFOs that anticipated the modern wave of sightings, and 13 days prior to the alleged UFO crashes at Roswell and Corona, Harold Dahl told of his own incredible encounter.

Dahl claimed that while in a boat travelling between Tacoma and Maury Island, Washington, he observed and took photos of six UFOs flying 2,000 feet above him on Puget Sound. Dahl remembered,

In describing the aircraft I would say they were at least one hundred feet in diameter. Each had a hole in the center, approximately twenty-five feet in diameter. They were all a sort of shell-like gold and silver color. Their surface seemed of metal and appeared to be burred because when the light shone on them through the clouds they were brilliant, not all one brilliance, but many brilliances, something like a Buick dashboard. All of the aircraft seemed to have large portholes equally spaced around the outside of their doughnut exterior. These portholes were from five to six feet in diameter and were round. They also appeared to have a dark, circular, continuous window on the inside and bottom of their doughnut shape as though it were an observation window.¹

One of the UFOs appeared to be in trouble, with the other five objects circling it. There was a muffled explosion, and the apparently distressed UFO dumped white metal sheets and dark slag onto the ocean and beach. Fragments damaged Dahl's boat,

burning the arm of the man's 15-year-old son, and killed a pet dog that was on board. Dahl said that after the UFOs departed he gathered samples of the metal and slag. According to Dahl's account, after they had gathered samples:

"We immediately started our engines and went directly to Tacoma, where my boy was given first aid at the hospital there. Upon reaching the dock I had to tell my superior officer how the boat had been damaged and why the dog had not returned with us. I related our experience to Fred L. Crisman, my superior officer. I could plainly see that he did not believe it and I guess I don't blame him, but we gave him the camera with its film and the fragments of metal we had loaded aboard as proof of our story."²

Fred Crisman later reported, "I sneaked off the next morning early to go over to Maury Island and see if there actually was twenty tons of this debris on the beach like Dahl said. On arriving at Maury Island I did find all the debris, lava rock and some of the white metal that Harold had told me about.

"Now, to make the story worse, while I stood looking at these fragments, holding a few pieces in my hand, one of the same kind of aircraft that Harold described to me came right out of a large fat cumulus cloud and made a wide circle of this little bay."³

Enter the MIB. That morning, according to Harold Dahl, a man in a black suit contacted him at his home and then joined him for breakfast at a local restaurant. He surprised Dahl by offering an exact account of the UFO incident, so precise in fact that it sounded to Dahl as if the man had been there. Then the stranger threatened Dahl and his family if he discussed his experience with others. Thus was launched an important sub-set within the study of MIB encounters, the "Silence Group" as it was called in the early days of ufology, in other words individuals who attempt to shut up UFO witnesses and sometimes confiscate any evidence of the event.

The MIB's warning apparently didn't deter Dahl or Crisman. Later the same day the photos of the UFOs were developed, but they were fogged and later "misplaced."

Fred Crisman contacted science fiction publisher and paranormal advocate Ray Palmer Jr. Palmer had already set the stage for the emergence of the modern MIB mythos by publishing the "Shaver Mystery" stories, a remarkably successful series of paranoid tales about the "deros," a malevolent humanoid race living inside the Earth who occasionally made forays above ground, and who degraded life on the surface by irradiation with harmful electronic rays. Some of the stories, penned by Richard Shaver and rewritten by Palmer, included kidnappings of humans by the deros.

The description of the deros bears a good deal of similarity to the MIB. Shaver wrote:

Nothing about my fictional creations has been more misunderstood than the 'dero.' The dero is the human whose mind has been under the influence of detrimental flows of energy until he has become a detrimental robot — shortened to dero.

He is a phenomenon peculiar to the caverns, the readers seem to think. I never meant to infer that the dero was confined exclusively to the cavern life, but only that the worst of earth's deros are to be found among the cavern people.

All earth people are to some extent deros, and especially considered from the viewpoint of all-over result, such as the results we got from our last war; all men are deros.

But in the caverns this stupid following of thought patterns without content of true reason is to be found organized, fixed, honored by the observance of centuries of stupidity; a form of state, a way of life. Up here we have not quite that sad a result from deros among us, as yet.

We have many words which mean dero, most of them unprintable. The 'phony', the 'prince', the 'scalawag', etc., etc. They are innumerable, but they all mean one thing, that person with whom no contact or dealing can be affected without loss.

The dero is the negative man. The normal human is the positive man.⁴

Crisman later admitted to being familiar with the Shaver Mystery stories, and Palmer was able to verify that the man had telephoned him on a number of occasions in the past. Thus,

Crisman was not such a disinterested observer as he made himself out to be.

Palmer dispatched Kenneth Arnold to investigate the Maury Island incident, the same Arnold who had recently witnessed a flight of UFOs himself, and whose description of them would provide the famous and semi-deprecatory coinage "flying saucers." Arnold flew in his private plane from Boise, Idaho, and interviewed Crisman and Dahl.

After his arrival in Tacoma, Kenneth Arnold sought a room without any luck, only to find that an unknown benefactor had pre-registered him at a hotel. After interviewing Dahl and Crisman, Arnold found out that the conversations were being leaked verbatim to a Tacoma newspaper. A check of his hotel room for microphones turned up nothing. Arnold reported, "...I suspected Dahl or Crisman of leaking out the information as to what was going on in our room."⁵

Strangely enough, Arnold's room also included a phone book with an added page that listed Dahl's name and number, whereas the actual Tacoma phone book did not.

The UFO debris samples shown to Arnold by Crisman did not match Dahl's original description of them. Arnold wrote, "I remember saying, 'Why, Harold, that's only a piece of lava rock!' As Arnold described the fragments that he finally inspected,

All of the pieces of the dark lava-like substance were perfectly smooth on one side and slightly curved, while the other side looked like it had been subjected to terrific heat. The metal or lava was extremely heavy, a little brass colored. Even a small piece of this dark metal, about the size of a person's hand and about an inch thick, was quite a labor to lift with one hand.

Someone suggested that these fragments could have been the lining to some kind of a power tube. When we lined up all the pieces, following the curve of the smooth surface, we saw that they could have been a lining of a tube of some kind about six feet in diameter. From this speculation everything seemed to be shaping up in a sense that we could understand.

Fred Crisman handed us a piece of the white metal. [Arnold's

friend, E.J. Smith of United Airlines, who had been called in as an observer] and I would grant it was very light, but no more so than the ordinary aluminum which certain sections of all large military aircraft are made of. If this was truly the light metal that Harold Dahl said was spewed from these strange aircraft we knew, or thought we knew, that it was a fake. We had seen hundreds of piles of this stuff in salvage dumps many places throughout the United States where surplus Army bombers had been junked.

There was only one unusual thing about this white metal that made us stop and wonder. One piece that Crisman handed us we could plainly see that two parts of it had been riveted. However, the rivets were not round, they were square and long rivets. I had never seen that type of rivet used in the aircraft we manufacture... This piece of metal did not correspond with Harold Dahl's original description of the extremely light white metal.

Arnold also wrote,

I had the feeling as Crisman talked that, solid as he appeared, he definitely wanted to domineer the conversation and trends of thought about the entire Maury Island incident. Harold Dahl seemed more and more in favor of taking little or no part in further discussion of the subject. Dahl in no way attempted to sell his story to me or to review it any further. He didn't try to convince me of the truth of what he had already told me... There were a number of things about the stories of Crisman and Dahl that didn't quite ring true...⁶

Arnold also remarked, "Crisman was very enthusiastic about the prospect of Military Intelligence taking over the investigation."⁷

A chain of sinister events that seemed to be more than coincidences followed in the wake of the Maury Island UFO sighting. On the 1st of August, two Army Air Corps officers (identified as being in military intelligence by the *Tacoma Times*), 1st Lt. Frank M. Brown and Capt. William L. Davidson, who had investigated the case and reportedly believed it to be a hoax, and two other enlisted men were returning to McChord Air Force Base in Washington. The plane was carry-

ing a box of heavy material that was probably samples of Crisman and Dahl's UFO detritus. The B-25 crashed near Kelso, Washington. Davidson and Brown were killed.

Prior to the crash, the two enlisted men had donned parachutes and jumped from the plane, on the orders of Lt. Brown, after it was learned that one of the engines was on fire. The airplane flew for ten minutes after the men jumped, although no emergency radio message was broadcast. After the crash of the plane, unauthorized persons were kept away from the wreckage with the excuse that the plane had carried classified cargo.⁸

The mysterious informant who had earlier contacted the newspapers phoned again, a fact that was revealed in the *Tacoma Times*, in a story headlined SABOTAGE HINTED IN CRASH OF ARMY BOMBER AT KELSO:

The mystery of the 'Flying Saucers' soared into prominence again Saturday when the *Tacoma Times* was informed that the crash Friday of an army plane at Kelso may have been caused by sabotage.

The *Times*' informant, in a series of mysterious phone calls reported that the ship had been sabotaged 'or shot down' to prevent shipment of flying disk fragments to Hamilton Field, California, for analysis.

The disk parts were said by the informant to be those from one of the mysterious platters which plunged to earth on Maury Island recently.

Lending substance to the caller's story is the fact that TWELVE HOURS BEFORE THE ARMY RELEASED OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION, he correctly identified the dead in the crash to be Captain William L. Davidson, pilot, and First Lieutenant Frank M. Brown." [Emphasis in original]⁹

Two days later there was an attempt on Kenneth Arnold's life. He was flying home to Boise, Idaho, in his plane when,

I reached an altitude which I would judge was around fifty feet. My engine stopped cold. It was as if every piston had frozen solid. It never even gave a dying bark...

Instinctively I dove the plane straight at the ground until I must

have been within ten feet of the runway, then came back on the stick as fast as I dared in an attempt to level off without causing an abrupt stall. My little airplane came through. I was sinking fast, but I set it down on all three points.

The shock was pretty hard. My left landing gear was badly bent and my left spar was broken in two.

After landing, Arnold discovered that the fuel valve in his plane had been shut off.¹⁰

Paul Lance, a reporter for the *Tacoma Times* who had assisted Arnold in investigating the case, died in "...two weeks... and the cause of his death was not clear... he lay on a slab in the morgue for about thirty-six hours while the pathologists apparently hemmed and hawed." Shortly after that, the United Press stringer at Tacoma also died. Then, coincidentally or not, the *Tacoma Times* went out of business.

Ray Palmer, who had paid Kenneth Arnold to investigate the story, and who had nearly doubled the circulation of *Amazing Stories* magazine while at the helm as editor, was fired by the publisher. Palmer declared that the reason was his publishing of the Shaver Mystery stories. A box of Maury Island UFO fragments sent to Palmer was also stolen, but not before Palmer had the contents analyzed. The analysis showed that the fragments were neither slag nor common rock, which, of course, proves little.

The heat also came down on Dahl and Crisman. On the 18th of August Lt. Colonel Donald Springer officially recommended, "That in view of the reported statements made by Mr. Crisman that consideration be given to revoke his Air Reserve commission and flying status as an undesirable and unreliable officer..." This censuring, however, did not happen. Crisman was recalled to service in the Air Force, and he went on to spend 30 months flying in the Korean War. Some researchers have speculated that this was a ploy to shut Crisman up, although it might just as well have been a means to take the man out of the eye of the controversy, and to let it die down.

Kenneth Arnold was told by Dahl of the bad side-effects of the sighting that he had experienced:

For nearly two hours Harold Dahl told me of all the sad experiences he had had since the 21st of June... He said you couldn't blame any of the experiences he had to anyone, that just by coincidence he nearly lost his job, just by coincidence he nearly lost his son, his wife had become ill, and he had lost a tremendously good boom of logs that he had salvaged from the bay when an unusual tide had somehow broken the moorings one night. This was a major loss to his finances as the boom was worth over \$3,500. The engines on their boat wouldn't start in the mornings; the boat sprang leaks. All in all, he had had a horrible time in keeping from going completely broke and from losing his family and home through sickness or accident.¹¹

Although it has been widely reported that Dahl admitted to Air Force officers that the Maury Island encounter had been a hoax, primarily concocted by Fred Crisman, that may not have been the case. In an August 14, 1947 teletype from J. Edgar Hoover to Seattle FBI Special Agent in Charge George Wilcox he stated, "It would also appear that Dahl and Crisman did not admit the hoax to the army officers."

Wilcox replied, "Please be advised that Dahl did not admit to Brown that his story was a hoax but only stated that if questioned by authorities he was going to say it was a hoax because he did not want any further trouble over the matter."

In the January 1950 issue of *Fate* magazine, Chrisman called accusations of hoaxing "a bald faced lie."

In 1969 the Air Force-authorized *Condon Report on UFOs* even went so far as to suggest that Kenneth Arnold had been a participant in a hoax, while UFO author Harold T. Wilkins has maintained that the *Saturday Evening Post* deleted from an interview with Arnold the following statement:

At my home, I have been visited by unseen entities whom I believe to be pilots of these weird discs. They were invisible to me and made no attempt to communicate. But I was aware of their presence because I could see my rugs and furniture sink down under their weight, as they walked about the room, or sat on various objects in the room.¹²

Complicating the strange story of the Maury Island encounter are the lifelong associations of Fred Crisman. He was a member of the OSS during World War II, the military intelligence precursor to the CIA, and he may have participated in Project Paperclip, a program in which the crimes of hundreds of Nazi scientists were overlooked when they were brought to the U.S. after World War II.

Crisman is also known to have been friends with allegedly CIA-connected Marshall Riconosciuto, the father of Michael Riconosciuto. The younger Riconosciuto was an informant for conspiracy researcher Danny Casolaro shortly prior to Casolaro's murder, as documented in my book, *The Octopus: The Secret Government and the Death of Danny Casolaro*. Among the abundant claims of Michael Riconosciuto are that he once witnessed an autopsy on an extraterrestrial, and that he designed the bomb that was used in the Oklahoma City bombing.¹³

Crisman was summoned by District Attorney Jim Garrison during the JFK assassination prosecution, and provided testimony before the grand jury in December 1968. In the March 1976 issue of Gray Barker's Newsletter, Ray Palmer wrote,

The Fred Crisman summoned to testify in the Clay Shaw trial was the same Fred Crisman who was involved in the Tacoma-Maury Island affair, and the same Fred Crisman who claimed to have shot his way out of a cave in Burma, receiving a hole the size of a dime in his arm from a 'ray gun' wielded (he said) by a dero. His exact words to me: 'For God's sake drop the Shaver cave stories! You don't know what you are dealing with here!' He is the same Fred Crisman who offered to go into a cave in Texas and bring out some ancient machinery if I would send him \$500 expense money...

I have Garrison's letter stating that they were one and the same man. I also have my answer to Garrison, predicting that Crisman could not be subpoenaed, that he was CIA and tremendously powerful...

Some researchers believe that Crisman was one of the "three tramps" (note the telltale 'three,' the familiar unit for groups of

MIBs) arrested and released shortly after the assassination. Clay Shaw was also implicated in the JFK assassination by Jim Garrison, and as reported of Crisman, was involved in Project Paperclip.

Challenging a coincidental interpretation, another intelligence agent believed by Jim Garrison to have been involved in the JFK assassination conspiracy was in close proximity to the Maury Island case, both physically and ufologically. On July 11, 1947, FBI agent William Guy Bannister reported that a 30 and 1/2 inch diameter "flying disk" had been found at Twin Falls, Idaho, then turned over to government authorities.¹⁴

Noting Crisman's history and associations, the question arises whether the CIA or other intelligence agency was instrumental in creating this early and influential UFO and MIB encounter. The Twin Falls, Idaho, occurrence bolsters the possibility that Maury Island was a government-sponsored hoax. If the government was involved at Maury Island, it would not be the last UFO case with spook (government spook, that is) fingerprints smudged all over it.¹⁵

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4

On a Bender

In 1953, soon after forming the International Flying Saucer Bureau (IFSB), with its publication *Space Review*, 31-year-old Albert K. Bender of Bridgeport, Connecticut, was allegedly contacted by Men in Black. Along with UFOs, Bender was interested in the occult, and in science fiction and horror movies. He had turned his room into a crammed "chamber of horrors," replete with monster photos, shrunken heads, and artificial bats, and had been known to take out-of-body tours of the cosmos, in which "strange and eerie dark shadows swirled by me, with thousands of eyes watching me from the blackness of it all."¹

The October 1953 issue of *Space Review*, edited by Bender, communicated two startling announcements:

LATE BULLETIN: A source which the IFSB considers very reliable has informed us that the investigation of the flying saucer mystery and the solution is approaching its final stages. This same source to whom we had referred data, which had come into our possession, suggested that it was not the proper method and time to publish the data in *Space Review*.

The second announcement trumpeted a "STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE":

The mystery of the flying saucers is no longer a mystery. The source is already known, but any information about this is being withheld by order from a higher source. We would like to print the full story in *Space Review*, but because of the nature of the

information we are very sorry that we have been advised in the negative. We advise those engaged in saucer work to please be very cautious.

After that issue of *Space Review*, Bender suspended publication and closed down the IFSB. Later he was interviewed by a local newspaper and spoke, at least in sketchy terms, of his contact with Men in Black. He offered this as the reason he had shut the organization down. Asked whether the MIBs were from the FBI, Bender stated that they were not, but were "from another branch."

Ufologist Gray Barker was the first person to publicize Bender's story. Barker had begun his UFO investigations in 1952, on assignment from *Fate* magazine. Barker first contacted Bender through Ray Palmer's *Other Worlds* magazine, where an announcement of the IFSB had run in 1952. Barker wrote seeking membership in the organization, and Bender offered him an unpaid position as a representative for West Virginia. In January 1953 Bender established contact with Barker by telephone.

Prior to Bender's contact with the Men in Black, Barker had been visited by the FBI. According to Barker, on August 28, 1953 a local FBI agent walked into his office inquiring about his flying saucer research. After a few brief questions, the FBI agent left.

Researchers and informants for the IFSB had also been hired away from the organization, into top security government positions. The obvious reason would have been to shut them up by swearing them to security oaths, but another possibility is that they were already associated with the government and simply moved on to other assignments.²

Gray Barker apparently learned about Bender's run-in with the Men in Black via a recorded message from researcher Dominick C. Lucchesi. On the tape Lucchesi stated,

Three men had visited him [Bender], and in effect shut him up completely as far as saucer investigation is concerned.

Now the way I gather it, Al [Bender] had run across something

important during his study of the saucer mystery... He had run across the secret unexpectedly while going through all this [IFSB] material.

Al also said that the remaining copies of *Space Review* — he had kept 15 copies of each back issue — had been confiscated. Augie [UFO researcher August Roberts] had asked Al if he or I, that is Augie or myself, would be able to find out the same thing that Al had found out by studying what saucer data we had on hand. Al said, 'Yes,' but that he was pledged to secrecy, on his honor as an American citizen not to speak about the actual thing that he knew." Lucchesi added, 'It is not impossible that you, yourself [i.e., Gray Barker], might be an agent.'³

Bender said that he had been visited by three MIBs who had told him the secret of the UFOs, and had threatened him with prison if he revealed the information he had been given. He seems to have initially identified the MIBs as "members of the United States Government." Bender reported that he was sick for three days after the encounter.

In 1954, one of Bender's colleagues, Edgar Jarrold, the head of the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau, was also visited by a mysterious man who imparted the amazing truth of the UFOs to him. A frightened Jarrold was told to keep quiet, and after being trailed by a black car, receiving weird phone calls, experiencing a variety of poltergeist activities, and being knocked down a flight of stairs by an unknown assailant, he soon dropped out of UFO research. One source says that Jarrold later mysteriously disappeared.

UFO historian Jerome Clark has indicated that what happened around Jarrold "may be indicative of clandestine intelligence activity... the early Cold War atmosphere led to comparable abuses of those with non-conforming ideas, and the possibility in this case must be seriously considered."⁴

Other UFO researchers of the time apparently were silenced. Clark has stated that UFO buffs left the fold in New Zealand and Canada, "amid allegations that they had been 'silenced' by mysterious, dark-suited strangers." One of these researchers was Eliot Rockmore, of Brooklyn, New York, who

was interviewed by "some sort of government agent," about a UFO artifact he possessed, and subsequently abandoned his research.⁵

In 1956 Gray Barker published the bestselling book *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*, detailing the Bender case and other MIB interventions. The book launched the modern day MIB tempest, and kept the teapot stirred until 1962, when Bender's book *Flying Saucers and the Three Men* was published, again by Barker's publishing house.

According to Bender's account in *Flying Saucers and the Three Men*, members of the IFSB worldwide had been engaged in an experiment attempting to send a telepathic message to the inhabitants of the UFOs. The text of the message was a reassurance to the aliens that the members of the IFSB welcomed them with "utmost friendship," and included a request to get in touch.

Bender lay on his bed in his darkened room and attempted to mentally project the message three times into the cosmos, when he was suddenly overcome by a cold chill and a severe headache. A sulphurous stench pervaded the room and he partially lost consciousness. Small blue, blinking lights swam through Bender's mind and he had the impression of weightlessness. Then Bender felt very cold, as if he were "lying naked on a floating piece of ice in the Atlantic Ocean." Bender opened his eyes to see his body three feet below him.⁶

Providing a curious note is the fact that Bender's initial meeting with the MIBs may have been facilitated through experiments in ritual magic of the Crowleyan variety. According to Rev. Allen Greenfield, who was a friend of Bender's amanuensis Gray Barker, "Even Barker noted that Albert K. Bender's experiments were more like a magical conjuration than an attempt at extraterrestrial communication. Any initiated magician reading Bender's accounts would recognize the elements of magical conjuration immediately."⁷

After going out-of-body, Bender heard a disembodied voice say, "We have been watching you and your activities. Please be advised to discontinue delving into the mysteries of the universe. We will make an appearance if you disobey."

He telepathically replied, "Why aren't you friendly to us, as we do not mean to do any harm to you?"

The voice answered, "We have a special assignment, and must not be disturbed by your people. We are among you and know your every move, so please be advised we are here on your Earth." The voice faded and Bender returned to full consciousness.

The room, according to Bender, was filled with yellow mist, there was a pervading sulphurous stench, and there was "a shadow, resembling that of a man," that disappeared when Bender rose from his bed. Bender felt nauseated, and his eyes were puffy. The smell of sulphur is said to have lingered in the house for days.

Bender wrote of his experiences and placed them in a locked drawer. He returned later to find his writings gone, replaced only by the lingering sulphurous odor.

Later, after returning from a vacation, Bender noticed the sulphurous stench again. The radio in his room was on, set to a portion of the band where there was no station, although Bender had not turned it on. Bender went to bed, but sensed that something was not quite right. Blue lights appeared and he became dizzy, and his eyes throbbed and felt puffy. Bender's body grew cold.

Bender said he saw "three figures. All of them were dressed in black clothes. They looked like clergymen, but wore hats similar to Homburg style. The faces were not clearly discernible, for the hats partly hid and shaded them..."

"The eyes of all three figures suddenly lit up like flashlight bulbs, and all these were focused upon me. They seemed to burn into my very soul..."

The figures conveyed a long message to him telepathically:

You have dedicated yourself to the solution of the strange problem of unidentified objects in your atmosphere. Your interest is deep and sincere and you have devoted many hours to it. We also know that such interest and determination might lead to something that could bring you harm. We feel that you are a very good contact for us on your planet of Earth. You are an average person, and we

know that what we tell you and show you will not be believed by anyone you might tell.

You are not a person of great renown on your planet; therefore we have nothing to fear at present. We have a purpose for being here and we will be here for some time yet. We must not be disturbed in our ultimate goal. As you see us here, we are not in our natural form. We have found it necessary to take on the look of your people while we are here. This is mainly used as a means of returning here without being detected by anyone. We have made numerous contacts with Earth by means of craft from our own base, and at present we have craft hidden at a remote spot on your planet. We have found it necessary to go to great extremes at times to frighten off your Earth people, and it has resulted in their deaths.

We also found it necessary to carry off Earth people to use their bodies to disguise our own. We wish to keep in touch with you, and tell you many things, because one day you will write about this, and we are certain that nobody will believe you, but you will be much wiser than anyone else on your planet. You will know what is out there in space, and you will know what the future holds for your mankind. You will see all three of us again, but we shall not reveal our names, as they would mean nothing to you. Refer to us as 'Numbers 1, 2, and 3.' We will answer according to number. We will leave with you a small piece of metal similar to your coins. It is to be kept in a secret place of your own. We wish to have you come with us at a time to be announced to you soon.⁸

In Bender's account (modifying his initial statements),

I had to make a decision about my further relationships with the IFSB. I decided that my best way of handling the committee would be to tell them only part of the truth. I could tell them I had a visit from certain individuals whom I could not name, and who had warned me against further investigation of UFOs. If I told them they had shown credentials, had revealed much to me as to the secret behind the saucers, and that the saucer mystery was approaching a solution, the committee might tend to be satisfied and even attach an earthly explanation, in their own minds, to my actions.

I would simply tell them it would not be possible to publish anything, because such was not the proper method nor was it the proper time for such an action. All information was being withheld

by orders from what I would simply term 'a higher source.' I decided the best possible thing to do would be to discontinue publishing *Space Review* in its present form, for I already knew the secret of the UFOs, and no one would believe the story anyhow if it were published. Why go on conducting an investigation of something no longer a mystery?"⁹

In the book Bender confided the whole incredible truth: that he had been kidnapped by the space men, and flown via saucer to the South Pole after the style of other early flamboyant contactees such as George Adamski, Truman Bethurum, and Orfeo Angelucci. After the aliens returned to their home planet Kazik in 1960, Bender was of course free to reveal the awful truth to an unsuspecting mankind.

Even Gray Barker, formerly a staunch supporter of Bender, expressed skepticism about these most recent revelations. Barker admitted that he "liked the first set of circumstances better. It could still be true. He could've come across some military secret which some intelligence agency might have visited him about and made him keep quiet about. Or maybe let's say he did know something, and the CIA came to visit him, and they knew of a skeleton in his closet... That could have upset him."¹⁰

Bender wrote another book about his experiences called *The World of Kazik*, but Barker said that the manuscript "was not good enough to do anything with." Bender soon dropped out of the UFO field to pursue other interests, including what may be the world's most complete collection of the music of Max Steiner. Although still alive at the writing of this book, Bender is not interested in communicating about his MIB experiences.

Analyzing the Bender case, it is noteworthy that at the time of his visitation, the IFSB was engaging in relatively sophisticated analysis of UFO sightings, including the plotting of UFO flight paths in order to determine their base of origin. This kind of research could easily have drawn the attention of the Air Force, the CIA, or the FBI to Bender, for a variety of reasons.

What I believe to be a coherent assessment of the Bender case was provided by an anonymous informant of Gray

Barker's, who wrote letters to him, signed "Colonel B." Barker said, "These letters contain no return address, and are mailed from different parts of the country. They usually state something to this effect: 'There is no logical reason for our correspondence, nor any necessity for your reply.'" In one letter to Barker, "Colonel B." wrote:

Dear Mr. Barker,

I have just spent a weekend reading your latest publication by Albert K. Bender. This volume I chanced to find at the home of an acquaintance, where I stopped by for a visit.

"This book was interesting to me not because of its literary style (notoriously bad and in bad taste I might add), but because of my somewhat minor contact with 'The Bender Case' around 1955...

I think that you should know the smattering of facts I do have on 'The Bender Case,' if you do not know them already and prefer to either protect the author or the commercial values of such.

It is my opinion that the genesis of the Bender Mystery was some material published by the Bridgeport group in their journal, *Space Review*, particularly the July 1953 issue, which I possess (My complete files are incomplete and I may some day stop through Clarksburg and pick up the reprint you offer). A Mr. Lucchesi wrote an article in that and succeeding issues, in which he claimed to have plans for a working flying saucer which worked along conventional aerodynamic principles.

Now it so happened that at that time our Government, along with the Canadian Government was on the earth-made 'saucer kick,' I shall put it. This is a rather complicated concept to get across, for the authorities themselves were very much confused, but let me try to give you some sort of picture: At that time the Avro Corp. of Canada, in unofficial cooperation with our country, was trying to develop a saucer-shaped jet aircraft which would fly successfully. This is a complicated point, but it is my opinion and understanding that the people who were developing this craft did not expect it to become any effective weapon or development in itself, beyond actually flying at reasonable altitudes and speeds. It was felt that during the course of this development a greater insight might be gotten into WHAT THE SO-CALLED FLYING SAUCERS ACTUALLY WERE. It is known that once you get into a technical development project, many side effects of learning take

place. There was great concern about saucers, almost to the point of near-panic, among certain authorities at that time, not for fear of outer space attacks, but because it was theorized that saucer-like craft had been developed by the Communists — or possibly the Nazis and these secrets had fallen into Communist hands. I might add that when the Avro saucer, finally taken over entirely by the U.S., was tested at Wright-Patterson, it didn't get off the ground, crashed on takeoff and severely wounded its test pilot.

These observations I use to build up to my statements on Bender and to show you how logical they are. With this high sensitivity on the subject of saucers, the article by Lucchesi, for one thing, aroused more than routine excitement in certain circles, far beyond the common sense that should have been utilized. But remember the saucer climate in government at that time...

When Bender was visited he built up the visits (there was more than one of them) far beyond a reasonable amount. I do not know how the visitors handled him, but such agents do not brow-beat anybody or give them the 'third degree' — not even this agency whose operation is often so greatly misconstrued.

Whether as a psychological tool, or simply because of the excited climate of that time, Bender was also questioned about the English woman who claimed to talk to Marconi in trance, and this ridiculous article was overemphasized. The address of a member who had written an article in regard to whether the U.S. or Russia had already reached the moon was solicited. A copy of one of August C. Roberts' saucer photographs was also requested.

It is odd indeed that this particular visitation consisted of five people instead of 'three men in black suits.'

Whether Bender's obvious over-estimation of the importance of the visit led him to fabricate the resulting story, whether he imagined the rest of it, or whether his story in the book could have been the result of additional visitation, I, of course, have no way of knowing or proving. My surface opinion is that it represented a delusion as a result of the quite unnecessary fright Bender experienced during and after the visit.¹¹

When I interviewed John Keel, who knew Barker and Bender, I asked him whether Gray Barker had influenced Bender's story.

Keel responded, "I think Barker wrote Bender's accounts. Barker wrote two books and put Bender's name on them."¹²

Saucer News reporter Lonzo Dove went so far as to make the allegation that Gray Barker had played a "cruel joke" on Bender. Lonzo maintained that Barker, wearing a disguise and in the company of two cohorts, were the men who had visited Bender.¹³

Jim Moseley, who was also a friend of Gray Barker, sees the matter differently: "He [Barker] did take Bender seriously, at the beginning. Then when he realized that Bender was either not sane or not truthful... When he lost faith in Bender, which was within the first couple of years, in '55 or '56, after that he [Barker] was just enjoying himself and making money."¹⁴

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5

The Silence Group

The Maury Island and Bender cases brought the Men in Black to the attention of a segment of the American population, but they were far from the first of this new wave of MIB encounters, many of them apparently connected to military or intelligence operations.

— In April 1897 sightings of hundreds of fantastic aerial craft took place across the country. In McKinney Bayou, Arkansas, Judge Lawrence A. Byrne, while surveying a tract of land, observed a “peculiar object” anchored on the ground. “It was manned by three men who spoke a foreign language, but judging from their looks, one would take them to be Japs.” The Oriental features noted among many Men in Black is one of the more inexplicable features of the experience.¹

— In 1924 a farmer near Gem in Braxton County, West Virginia saw a huge wingless aircraft that had crashed in the forest. John Cole, who reported the story to John Keel, searched with the local sheriff and others until they found the wreckage of a 75-foot-long metallic craft, that looked “like the fuselage of a modern plane, with windows and all,” but lacked propellers or any other apparent motive device. When the group arrived at the crash site they found that another group of men had arrived there first. These were Oriental-looking men, about five feet tall, who spoke a foreign language. Some of these individuals were dressed in black business suits, while others wore shiny coveralls.

One of the MIBs assured the sheriff that no one had been hurt in the crash, and that a full report would be provided to him

at the first opportunity. The search party left the site of the crash, but John Cole picked up a piece of the wreckage and took it home as a souvenir. Cole was awakened at 3 a.m. that night by a knocking on his door. He was confronted by one of the foreigners, who was now dressed in a U.S. Army uniform. The man demanded the piece of wreckage be returned. He took it from Cole, and departed without saying another oddly inflected word. Two days later Cole returned to the crash site to find that all evidence of the aircraft had been removed, even though trees and foliage had been destroyed in the crash. Many years later Cole, when confiding the story said, "After the Army officer came by, I figured that maybe it was a secret Army deal of some kind and I thought it was better to leave it alone."

Before we leap to the conclusion that there was alien/U.S. government joint testing of cigar-shaped motherships going on in West Virginia in 1924, other possibilities should be considered. It is possible, barely possible that the United States was testing 75-foot-long aircraft of an advanced nature in 1924. It is also possible that another group of non-government inventors was testing aircraft. But what seems most probable is that John Cole observed the wreckage of the crash of a dirigible. He may have been mistaken about there being no propellers if they were positioned on a gondola, or otherwise placed underneath, and concealed by the rest of the structure when it crashed.

However, there are still the Oriental features of the investigators to be factored in, injecting a high strangeness quotient into the affair.²

— The previous incident coincides interestingly with the account of engineer Rex Ball, who swore that he had wandered into an underground base in Georgia in 1940. Manning the base were a few American military officers and a larger number of small Oriental-looking men in coveralls. When he was caught walking in a connecting tunnel, an officer commanded, "Make him look like a nut!" He woke up in a field, uncertain as to whether he had dreamed the encounter. As John Keel comments in *The Mothman Prophecies*, this seems to be a standard

procedure of the government in UFO and MIB cases: to make the witness "look like a nut."³

— In the latter part of 1949 black activist Malcolm X lay on his bunk at the Norfolk Prison Colony, "a facility created to conduct experimental rehabilitation programs using modern theories of penology." He suddenly noticed a man bathed in light sitting in a chair at the other side of the cell.

According to Malcolm X, "He wasn't black, and he wasn't white. He was light-brown-skinned, an Asiatic cast of countenance, and he had oily black hair."

The MIB returned Malcolm X's stare for a while and then vanished. Malcolm was convinced that he had received a visitation from Master Wallace Fard Muhammad, the legendary founder of the Nation of Islam and the man who had imparted his mystical secrets to Elijah Muhammad.

Both Fard and Elijah Muhammad are said to have been initiates in High Degree Prince Hall Freemasonry. It is not commonly known and possibly only of tangential significance that the Freemasons were involved in funding experimental psychological projects in the U.S., and that Freemason psychiatrists were involved in many experimental mind control programs during the 1950s, conducted under the auspices of the CIA's MKUltra experimentation.

I have never heard voiced the possibility that Malcolm may have unknowingly been the subject of a drug or other form of mind control program by the CIA or another organization at Norfolk. Was Malcolm X programmed early on to take over or infiltrate the Black Power movement? Many other intelligence assets and agent provocateurs in the Black Power movement — including Eldridge Cleaver, Donald DeFreeze, Ron Karenga, and others — allegedly would be activated in the years to come.

The visitation of Malcolm X is also curious when viewed in relation to the later UFO abduction of black leader Louis Farrakhan. According to Farrakhan, in a 1990 interview,

I had a vision, an experience where I was carried up into not just the little wheel but into the major wheel which is, as the

Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught us, a half a mile by a half a mile, a huge, mechanical object that is above our heads...

I was carried up in a vision into that wheel and I, in a room not unlike this, but with a speaker in the center, heard the voice of Honorable Elijah Muhammad just like you are hearing my voice today.

Now you say, of course, Elijah Muhammad's dead, how could you hear him, you know, on a wheel and this is incredible, the boy's a nut, but okay, let's listen to what I heard. He said to me, President Reagan has met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and is preparing a war. I want you to hold a press conference in Washington and tell them his plans and tell them you got it from me, Elijah Muhammad, on the wheel.

I came back in the vision, had the press conference, the vision was over. I woke up from the experience and in 1985 when I had the vision, September the 17th, October 7th or 6th, I'm on my way to New York to Madison Square Garden — now you go and check the records — travelling from southwest to northeast there were 15 squadrons of four of these wheels in a squadron, that's 60 of them, flying from southwest to northeast reported on a National Public Radio [station] out of Tucson, Arizona. The Army, not some deluded crack addict, but the Army followed the planes in helicopters or what-not and they reported this...

The preceding accounts suggest the possibility of a long-term mind control assault by government on black activists.⁴

— A curious and well-documented visitation of UFO writer W.D. Clendenon took place in September 1961. Clendenon, interested in UFOs and at the time corresponding with classic alien contactee George Adamski, heard the doorbell ring at his home at 9:00 p.m. Standing at the full length glass window was a short man in a tan topcoat who appeared to be about 30 years old.

Clendenon opened the door and asked the man what he wanted. He was told that he was engaged in a political survey to see whether people in the area had voted on the Republican ticket. Clendenon told the man he was an independent voter, and shut the door. Then he felt the strong impulse to invite the man in, and opened the door again.

The men conversed, with Clendenon inquiring about public relations techniques, hoping to find out a way to create interest in one of his inventions — a vertical take-off and landing aircraft that so far had only reached the blueprint stage. Discussing his invention, Clendenon got the impression that the man already knew a good deal about it. When the man rose to leave, he jotted notes on some index cards.

According to Clendenon,

“I noticed that he wore dark-framed glasses although I instinctively knew he didn’t need them. However, the thing that impressed me the most was his face. His skin was smooth as though he had never shaved in his life. His skin reminded me of a baby’s skin. When he smiled, his teeth were perfect and very white. The color of his skin was brown, like an Indian; his hair was dark and trimmed in a business-like manner. He looked almost too perfect and it bothered me.”

After the man had left, Clendenon says that he got the urge to go into the backyard. It was near dusk, and facing north, Clendenon saw, “a brilliant white ball of light. It wobbled as if out of control, but straightened itself in a westward line. I saw that it was accompanied by short spurts of white vapor. The ball of light made a right angle turn due south and proceeded toward Bremington when the UFO reached a position parallel with my position. It made another right angle turn and came eastward toward me. As it came closer to me, the white light turned to rust-orange and was pulsating on and off.

“The details of the UFO’s structure now became quite clear and looked identical in every way with the Scout Ship photographed by Adamski in California in December 1952.”

Clendenon feels that, “I had just been shown that Adamski’s UFO Scout Ship photograph was real.”

After flying above Clendenon’s backyard, the craft travelled eastward toward Sandpoint Naval Air Station. Clendenon stated, “...I felt the personnel at the Navy Air Base just had to see it, but they told me the next day when I checked with them that they hadn’t seen anything relating to a UFO during that

time. However, many people in my area reported the UFO sighting to a radio talk show the evening of the sighting.”

It is reasonable to suppose that Clendenon was first brought to the attention of the agency employing the MIB through his correspondence with George Adamski. If the man who visited Clendenon was in the military, then that suggests that there may have been government testing in the vicinity of a craft that looked like Adamski’s flying saucer — or was, in fact, the same variety of craft that Adamski had allegedly photographed. There is abundant evidence suggesting that these sorts of aerial vehicles were, in fact, tested beginning in the 1950s or earlier, and additional information will be provided later in the book.⁵

— Paul Miller and three companions were returning from a hunting trip to Minot, North Dakota, in November 1961. They watched as a “luminous silo” of a UFO landed in a field nearby. Two humanoid-looking creatures emerged from the craft, and Miller fired a gun at them, apparently wounding one of the creatures. Miller and the other hunters fled, on the way back to Minot experiencing three hours of missing time.

The following morning Miller reported to work (in an office at the local Air Force base) and was confronted by three MIBs who claimed to be officials in the government, without showing any identification. They told Miller they hoped he was telling the truth about the UFO encounter, even though he had mentioned the incident to no one. When asked how they had found out about the sighting, they said that they had ‘a report.’

The MIBs displayed a remarkable knowledge of Miller’s past. Mentioning nothing about Miller’s firing upon the humanoid, they were more interested in the clothes that Miller had been wearing when he witnessed the UFO, going so far as to inspect the garments at Miller’s house. Their interrogation terrified Miller enough so that he did not mention the incident to anyone for several years.

Although at least one researcher has interpreted this MIB incident as an alien intervention (actually, some researchers have identified the Jack in the Box clown as an alien intervention), nothing specifically suggests it. The fact that the Men in

Black did not show identification does not mean that they did not have it. In all probability, they were only providing themselves deniability by keeping their identities and affiliations secret. If they were not government employees of some sort, then their access to the government base would have been supernatural indeed. Their interest in Miller's clothing worn at the time of the UFO encounter may have been merely to obtain positive identification, to validate that there had not been other witnesses.⁶

— The assassination of President John F. Kennedy is rife with the lore of the MIB, taking us into realms unconnected to UFOs... except by more excitable theorists who claim Kennedy was killed because of what he knew about flying saucers, and possibly deros.

R.B. Cutler, the editor of the *Grassy Knoll Gazette*, writes of an MIB present at Dealey Plaza during the assassination of John F. Kennedy:

"There is a man, seen in the early 2-frames [of the Zapruder film], standing on the infield grass, who one researcher believes fired 22 shots from two automatic pistols. The man is tall, erect, the grass area behind him is light, and he is dressed in a black cape and hat."⁷

After the murder of Kennedy, it is reported that MIBs visited Lee Harvey Oswald's old military unit and were given access to files on him.

And then there is the matter of Fred Crisman and William Guy Bannister, both apparently connected to the JFK assassination in some manner, and also present at early UFO incidents.⁸

Another curious linkage to the JFK assassination is provided in the case of Manuel Angel Ramirez (aka Luis Angel Castillo), a 24-year-old man arrested by the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation in March 1967 for conspiring to assassinate President Marcos. At his request he was given truth serum and placed under hypnosis. While hypnotized, he revealed that for most of his life he had trained with or had been involved in missions with a Special Operations Group of the CIA. He also claimed that he had been involved an assassination that had taken place in

Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963 — the date of the murder of John Kennedy. Castillo revealed characteristics suggesting that he was a mind controlled assassin, and displayed at least four different personalities (he was also known to have travelled under a variety of names and passports). Castillo stated that he had been given initial instructions in Dallas by a woman with a German accent, named Mrs. Kreps. Relevant to our investigation is that Castillo told interrogators that the Kennedy hit team had been led by a black haired man with a hook nose and “oriental eyes,” named “Lake,” who drove a black car.⁹

John Keel informs us that, “The quiet groups still investigating and researching the assassination of President Kennedy have been suffering strange harassments identical to those experienced by UFO buffs and psychic researchers. Their telephones go haywire (electromagnetic phenomena?), they are followed by mysterious automobiles and suspicious Oriental-looking gentlemen.”¹⁰

— The UFO silencers continued their activities after August 3, 1965, when California highway inspector Rex Heflin claimed that, parked by the side of the Santa Ana Freeway, he had taken a series of Polaroid photos of a UFO. Heflin told investigators that he had given three of the four original photo prints to a man who claimed he was from North American Air Defense Command, although NORAD later denied ever investigating the matter.

Over two years after the original sighting and photos, Heflin reported that a man calling himself Captain C.H. Edmonds of the Space Systems Division, Systems Command, of the Air Force visited him at his home. Edmonds asked Heflin if he wanted his original photos back, and Heflin told him that that would not be necessary, which seemed to relieve Edmonds. During the interview, Heflin reported, a car was parked across the street and, to quote the Condon Report on UFOs, “In the back seat could be seen a figure and a violet (not blue) glow, which the witness attributed to instrument dials. He believed he was being photographed or recorded. In the meantime his FM multiplex radio was playing in the living room and during the

questioning it made several loud audible pops.” The detail of the glowing instruments in the back seat of the car is closely duplicated in the George Smythe case, reported later in this book. Presumably the equipment was early and bulky non-transistorized monitoring equipment. The fact that it was not covered up may have been because of the problems with heat diffusion sometimes encountered with vacuum tube-based equipment.

Later inquiries revealed that there was no Captain Edmonds in the Air Force.¹¹

Black operations continued...

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6

Overlords and UMMO

The Overlords case is difficult to categorize due to the dearth of information available. Although I am inclined to include it with other MIB scenarios having apparent intelligence agency involvements, I do not rule out the possibility that what took place was a hoax, or was even based upon paranormal events.

“Helge” (a pseudonym), a Swedish demolitions man with apparent telepathic abilities, developed a kidney stone and days before the operation, on December 9, 1965, took a walk across a frozen lake near his home. He saw a UFO parked on the ice, and met the ship’s crew, who were hairless humanoids with large pointed ears and slanted, Oriental eyes. The aliens used a device that looked like a microphone, running it over Helge’s body and causing the kidney stone to vanish. The oldest of the ship’s crew told Helge that his race would soon be coming to Earth in armadas. When it became dark the crew took their leave of Helge and departed in their ship. According to Hakan Blomquist, the Swedish investigator who researched the case, the day following the contact Helge’s physicians were amazed to find that the kidney stone had disappeared.

Helge’s next contact took place in August 1966. Returning to the lake, Helge saw the UFO hovering above. He rowed a dinghy out to the craft and spoke with an occupant, who gave him a small sheet of metal covered with three rows of odd symbols. Helge was instructed to go to the Bahamas as their agent and to always carry the plate on his person. Helge returned to shore and buried the plate.

In March 1967 Helge and his wife screwed up their courage and went to the Bahamas. They were told in some manner to go to a location on Little Exuma but, having forgotten to bring the plate, nothing happened and they returned home to Sweden. On the flight home Helge noticed that 14 of the passengers on his flight looked like Catholic priests. They disappeared "in a mysterious way," except for one of the priests, named Father Rapas, dressed in a black cape, boots and a black hat, who informed Helge that he worked for the UFO-nauts whom Helge had met, a group Rapas termed the Overlords.

Travelling to Stockholm, Helge met members of a UFO research group there, and a small group of enthusiasts grew around him. A letter was received from Rapas in January 1968, telling the group that the Overlords wanted them to start a peace organization called, with stunning originality, "The New Generation." Sixty-five "Rapas rules" were included in the letter, but some members chafed at the authoritarianism, and left the group. The organization continued, gaining about 600 members according to a spokesperson named Trggwe Glantz, interviewed in a Swedish newspaper. Funding for the group was reportedly received from the Overlords.

On further instructions from Rapas, Helge returned to Little Exuma, and this time remembered to bring along the metal plate. Travelling to a small nearby island with two locals, Helge claimed to have entered an alien base inside a mountain. There were a number of entities resident in the mountain, including giants, dwarves, and hermaphrodites. Helge also met members of the group who had originally contacted him, and other individuals conforming to the MIB description, who had thin pointed features, were deeply tanned and Oriental-looking, and had long fingers and dark eyes.

In the alien base Helge was shown a three-dimensional display of Earth and its civilizations, as well as a collection of advanced weapons. Rapas was also present and told Helge that "The New Generation" would come from this mountain center, and that Helge would enroll in a school there.

After leaving the base, Helge met with human contacts in

the Bahamas, including a Russian and an American named Loftin. Loftin allegedly tipped off the CIA about the base, and was later found dead from a bullet in his head — not a laser.

While in the Bahamas, Helge was allowed to drive one of the Overlords' cars, an old Cadillac with a "magical eye" that steered it.

After a 20-year association with the aliens, Helge seemed to have misgivings. Although the Overlords claimed they were here to prevent World War III, Helge finally began to doubt that explanation. He calls them "totally without feeling" and speculates that they sell themselves to the highest bidder.¹

The closest parallel to the Overlords case is that of UMMO, a complex of interwoven events that took place during approximately the same time period, although originating in Spain. The UMMO case was created through a large number of contacts — UFO sightings, personal contacts, messages through the mail and telephone — alleged to be from space brothers from the planet UMMO, revolving around the sun IUMMA, located 14.6 light years from our solar system. These allegedly extraterrestrial-originated missives and encounters in turn spawned a large number of UMMO books and conferences around the world.

Contact with the Ummites began when, on February 6, 1966, a group of soldiers at an ammunition dump in Aluche, near Madrid, Spain, observed the flight of a whitish disk craft with a symbol on its underbody resembling a closed parenthesis connected by a crossed bar to an open parenthesis:)+(. The craft reportedly left three deep, rectangular marks in the vicinity where it had been observed.

A disk craft with the same symbol on its underside was observed by dozens of witnesses on June 1, 1967, in San Jose de Valderas, another suburb of Madrid. Five photos were reported to have been taken of the craft, although laboratory analysis proclaimed the pictures to be fakes.

A few hours later, however, several witnesses (including an employee of the U.S. embassy) watched another flying disk land in Santa Monica, another suburb of Madrid. Again, clear

rectangular marks were left on the ground, as well as traces of a metallic powder.

The managers of a nearby restaurant were told that some witnesses had been told of the impending landing. Also, in the days following, metallic cylinders were found in the area. When opened they disclosed strips of tough, pliable plastic embossed with the symbol that had appeared in two of the earlier saucer sightings.

An analysis of the plastic strips showed that they were composed of Tedlar, a heat-resistant polyvinyl fluoride material used primarily by NASA to cover its rockets.

It is not known when the UMMO documents began to be received. They are a large collection of six-to-ten page letters containing diagrams and equations, delineating UMMO science and philosophy, with each page stamped with the UMMO symbol. Differing from most channeled and other messages supposedly beamed by space beings, they were scientifically savvy, although according to Jacques Vallee, smacked more of Euro sci-fi than superior extraterrestrial knowledge. The documents were mailed from locations all over the world to prominent UFO researchers.

In 1969 an UMMO letter was sent to Father Lopez Guerrero, describing experiments that had been done by the Ummites at the house of a woman living in Albacete, Spain. A year later, another letter providing more details and addressed to the CIA was obtained by a Spanish UFO research group. According to the letter, two Ummites had lived with Mrs. Margarita Ruiz de Lihory y Resino, the Marquise of Villasante, Baroness of Alcatrali, from 1952 to 1954.

It was determined that the daughter of the Marquise had died at her house in 1954, and that after her death the corpse had been mutilated using surgical techniques, and other characteristics commonly associated with alien mutilation. A complaint had been filed by the Marquise's son, and missing organs were found in the house. The Marquise kept many pets, and it was discovered that many dissections and mummifications had taken place on the property. The Marquise was apparently exonerated

of criminality, because there is no record of her being punished for the mutilation of her daughter. Likewise, no extraterrestrial connection was ever proven, although the plot thickened when a man believed to be CIA turned up in Madrid, offering a sizable reward for information helping him to locate the Ummites.

About 1973, the so-called International Medical Research Facility was started in Canuelas, Argentina, composed of a modern building surrounded by wire fence, and a twenty-foot diameter, twenty-foot-high flying saucer. A plaque showed the UMMO symbol and the legend, HONO INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, 1901. The organization was apparently dispensing cancer cures using varied holistic and electronic means. According to Carlos Jerez, the director of the Facility, he and his staff were extraterrestrials, from Ganimedes, a satellite of Jupiter.

Although Jerez vanished and the organization was closed down, he was later located and stuck to his story of being an extraterrestrial.²

The solution to the labyrinthine UMMO mystery may have been found. Spanish journalist Manuel Carballal wrote that researchers Cales Berche, Jose J. Montejo and Javier Sierra, among others, had named well-known Spanish parapsychologist Jose Luis Jordan Pena as being the originator of the UMMO hoax. Pena was among the witnesses of the first UMMO disk craft, and is later reported to have admitted his creation of the complex hoax, stating that it had been a "scientific experiment" aimed at testing the gullibility factor amongst Spanish UFO researchers.

With UMMO, however, one notes similarities to other UFO "cult" cases. Jacques Vallee, with good reason, has speculated that the UMMO mystery may have in fact been created by government intelligence agencies. The suspicion lingers that numerous other cases of alleged extraterrestrial contact, including that of the Overlords, may have had the same origin.³

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7

More Black Ops

The roster of MIB cases apparently mounted by humans, rather than extraterrestrials, continues:

— Although Ivan Sanderson was at one time a well-known figure in UFO research, I am not aware of the following incident having been recorded in print. During 1966-67 Sanderson, who was also a well-known naturalist, while writing his book *Uninvited Visitors* noticed a car that kept driving back and forth near his home in rural west New Jersey. He took a photo of the license plate of the car, and after calling authorities found that no such license number existed.

Later, Sanderson was visited by two men wearing Air Force uniforms, who inquired about his book. Sanderson asked to see their military identification, and when they refused he pulled a gun on them and ordered them out of the house. Later Sanderson voiced the regret that he had not detained the men at gunpoint until the police arrived. The local Air Force base commander disavowed any knowledge of the visitors and suggested that Sanderson file a report with the police about men impersonating Air Force officers.

Sanderson was plagued by strange electronic noises over his phone for a long time after the incident.¹

— According to researcher Paris Flammonde, a man claiming to represent 'a government agency so secret that he couldn't give its name' appeared in a school in Norwalk, Connecticut and grilled two 12-year-old boys for two hours about the disc-shaped object that had pursued them at ground level in April 1966.²

— In May 1967 in Owatonna, Minnesota, a man calling

himself 'Major Richard French' visited Mrs. Ralph Butler, who had seen a UFO the previous November. The man wore a grey suit, white shirt, and black tie. He drove a white Mustang and, "He was about five feet nine inches tall with a kind of olive complexion and pointed face. His hair was dark and very long — too long for an Air Force officer. He was well educated."

During a conversation about her UFO experience, French complained of stomach problems, and the woman offered him some Jello. He turned it down, but the following morning he returned and had the Jello, which he tried to drink. She recalled that, "I had to show him how to eat it with a spoon."

While this is considered by many ufologists to be an example of an extraterrestrial encounter, there is really nothing other-worldly about feigning ignorance of how to eat Jello.³

— The six-member Edward Christiansen family and another relative were travelling north of Mayville, New Jersey, on November 22, 1967. They saw a glowing red, green, and white object fall from the sky. Seeing the large sphere of light, they assumed that an airplane had crashed, and pulled to the side of the Garden State Parkway parallel to Burleigh. Watching the light, it again began to silently move. It made a sharp turn and then flew directly over the family's head. As it shot over them they could see that the object had three elongated "headlights" wrapped around the underside to the top of the object. Arline Christiansen and her sister Gwendoline Martino became afraid and the family returned to the car and drove home to Wildwood Crest.

That night Gwendoline called the local Air Force base and was questioned by an officer there. Later, a long distance call was received from another Air Force base, and the family was questioned at length about their experience.

As Mrs. Martino was preparing for bed that evening she thought she heard electronic dots and dashes. She wakened the Christiansens, who were unable to hear the radio-like signals, although Mrs. Martino was still able to. The signals finally faded.

On January 9, 1968, the Christiansen family were returning

to a new home in Wildwood, New Jersey, after a trip to Florida. At 5:30 p.m. they heard a knock on the front door. Answering the door they met a person who seventeen-year-old Connie Christiansen called "the strangest looking man I've ever seen."

"Does Edward Christiansen live here?" the tall man with unusually pale skin asked. "I'm from the Missing Heirs Bureau. Mr. Christiansen may have inherited a great deal of money." Although the man told the family his name, they could not remember it later. They did remember him saying that his friends called him "Tiny."

The man was at least six feet three inches tall, and so broad in girth that the family estimated he must weigh 300 pounds. He had on a Russian-style fur hat with black visor and a long black coat made of material that was too thin for the cold weather. Taking off his hat they saw that his head was large and round, but his face was angular and pointed. He had black hair that appeared to have been shaven off and just growing back. His eyes bugged out like "thyroid eyes," and one eye seemed to be made of glass, not moving in unison with its companion.

The man's voice was also extremely odd. He spoke in a "tinny" voice, "like a computer," in a monotone with clipped phrases. He also wheezed.

Removing his coat they noticed a badge, which he quickly covered with his hand.

"It looked like a gold or brass badge," Connie said, "but it wasn't an ordinary police badge or anything like that. We just got a glimpse of it... but it seemed to have a big K on it with a small x alongside, and there were some letters or numbers around the edge. It was obvious he didn't want us to see it."

When the man sat down his black trousers rode high on his calves. He had dark socks and dark shoes with extremely thick rubber soles. But perhaps the most odd thing was that a green wire came up out of one sock and disappeared into his trousers. One area of the wire went into the man's leg and was covered with a "brown spot."

The family had been ready to eat and asked "Tiny" to join them. He said that although he was on a diet, in about ten

minutes he would take a glass of water. Tiny proceeded to ask Edward Christiansen a series of questions to determine if he would inherit money. The questions included details about scars he had on his body, cars he had owned, and a list of the schools he had attended.

As Tiny talked his face grew redder and redder. After a short while he asked for the glass of water. He produced a yellow capsule and swallowed it with the water, and then his face returned to its normal pallor.

After about 40 minutes Tiny left. Arline Christiansen watched him as he stood outside and gestured, and a black 1963 Cadillac pulled up to the curb, driving in the dark with its headlights out. Tiny climbed in the car and it drove away without headlights.

The following morning a call was received from a woman who said she was also from the Missing Heirs Bureau, and that the correct Edward Christiansen had been found.⁴

— According to John Keel, in March 1967, “A family of seven were driving through central Long Island (NY) when they noticed an unusual flying object descending towards a nearby field. They pulled over to top and watched amazed, as the object landed. It was clearly unusual and resembled the stories they all had heard of ‘flying saucers.’ As they sat there stunned, a large sedan drove off the road and over the field towards the object. As the car approached a door opened on the object and two men stepped out. Both entered the automobile and it proceeded to drive back across the field, into the road and away. The UFO rose into the afternoon sky and faded into the distance.”

Again, this story suggests the testing by government or other human agency of aircraft conforming to the description of flying saucers.⁵

— Carol Wayne Watts was driving home from his father’s house at 10:30 p.m. on March 31, 1967, when he saw a light shining from the side of the dirt road. As he came closer he saw a 100-foot metallic craft.

‘At first I wasn’t frightened at all,’ Watts said to an investigator

for *Saucer News*. "I thought it must be some new aircraft the Air Force had developed and that it must have made an emergency landing or something. I know this sounds odd but that was the first thing that went through my mind. I also thought that there might be injured crewmen aboard, and I wondered how to find out, since there weren't any windows or doors. I scrounged around and found an odd rotting fence post and pulled it out of the mud and started banging and sounded out the machine by hitting it with the post.

Suddenly, a door that I had never detected before slid open, something like an elevator door, and that was when I began getting scared; though somehow I just stood there, looking into this opening. Inside there was no crew or anything, just machinery and all kinds of meters and dials lit up by this strange bluish light.

Then there was a loud cracking like the beginning of a Victrola record, and then a voice, sounding like it came from a machine or was recorded, began talking to me. It knew my name and everything and it told me that it wanted to give me a physical examination. It said that no harm would come to me whatsoever, and that the examination would be completely painless.

The carrot of a trip into outer space was offered to Watts if he agreed to the examination. Asked to stand against a machine on the inside of the craft, the man noticed there was a map on the wall beside it, although he was unable to identify what it depicted. Watts became afraid and, without submitting to the examination, he hurried out of the craft, returned to his car and drove off.

Watts again saw the UFO near his father's house on April 11th. Approaching the craft again, he was followed by a smaller oval object hovering in the air. As he neared the UFO, the door opened again, and four men beckoned him to enter from inside the craft. The occupants were five feet tall, dressed in white coverall-like suits, and had "wraparound eyes." The electronic voice spoke again, telling Watts to enter, and he did.

Watts sat down in a flexible metal chair inside the saucer. He abruptly sank into the chair as if by acceleration, believing that the craft had taken off. Small wires probed at his body as the UFO-nauts stood in a nearby room examining an illuminated circle, presumably taking readouts from his examination. Watts

spotted a small green cube setting on a table nearby, "like an oversized ice cube," and slipped it into his pocket as a souvenir. Later, one of the men reached into Watts' pocket to take the cube back. When Watts resisted he went unconscious.

Watts woke up back on Earth, sitting in his truck. He was to see the UFO again later, and took 11 photos of it, including an unclear shot of one of the UFO occupants.

Watts was contacted by the Condon Committee, empowered by the Air Force to investigate UFOs, and sent the group copies of the photos and a statement about what had happened. Dr. Allen Hynek investigated the case and could find no suggestion of hoaxing on the part of Watts. Hynek suggested that Watts be given a lie detector test, but when it was administered, Watts failed it.

Watts was later interviewed by Captain Robert Loftin, an Early Warning Network Coordinator from the University of Colorado, and Watts told him that he had purposely failed the lie detector test. He told Loftin, "I got ready to drive to Amarillo to take the lie detector test. It's about a 100 mile drive from here. A few miles out of Loco I came upon a car, I'd say a '55 Plymouth, stalled in the right hand lane, and a woman about 25 with blonde hair and dressed in a light flowered dress under a rather plain looking coat was trying to get the hood of the car up. I pulled off the road and got out to offer her some assistance.

"At that moment, I was hit on the head from behind, I guess with a billy club. I went down but it didn't knock me out. As I recovered from the blow, I looked up and there stood two men in dark business suits. One of them was holding an automatic rifle on me.

"If you pass this test, there's going to be a lot of daylight seen through you in more than one place,' he told me. 'Now Git!' he exclaimed, and I 'got.'"

That night a car drove by Watts' residence, and sprayed the house with bullets from an automatic weapon. Although Watts' initial contacts portray the big-eyed alien motif, the subsequent interventions are apparently by humans, wanting Watts to keep quiet about his experience. Even the alien contact itself may

have been engineered by humans, a possibility that will be taken up later.⁶

— In October 1967, a woman who had just moved into a cabin on isolated Keats Island, Vancouver, British Columbia, began regularly observing UFOs flying in the area. Then, on January 29, 1968, she had a close sighting of “a long dark body with dim red and yellow lights at both ends.” That night she was surprised by two visitors in “neat, dark coveralls,” who told her they were employees of the hydroelectric company, and who walked with exceptional slowness and care. They offered to put up her stovepipe for her, and as the younger man handed the pipes up to the man on the roof, he responded, “Yes, Master” to the other man’s instructions.

On May 2 the “Master” returned, with another assistant, who stared at the woman occupant of the cabin as if she were a freak. This time she did not invite the men inside. The following day a Jeep full of businessmen inspecting power lines drove by, and assured the woman that the men she had seen before were not “Hydro men.”

— In Scotia, New York, Peggy G. and a friend observed a bright UFO in April 1967. As they watched, a baseball-sized projectile shot from the UFO and went over their heads, disappearing into trees behind them. About six weeks later, other UFOs were seen in the immediate vicinity by other witnesses, and there were reports of missing pets in the area. After the UFO sighting, Peggy also started to experience poltergeist activity in her home.

During this period Peggy G. reported frequent telephone interference, and also said that she had seen two light-skinned men with expressionless faces stringing silver tape over the wires near her home. When she called police, the men left, but one of the police officers investigating commented to her, “Oh, the silver tape again.”

Investigator John Keel comments on “the silver tape gambit”:

“Lengths of silver tape are strung rather meaninglessly on the telephone poles close to the subject’s home. I came across

this several times and collected some samples of the tape. It was not electrical tape such as might be used by telephone repairmen but was a common weather insulating tape available in almost any hardware store."

Keel also mentions a large four-engined plane lacking markings that dumped silver tape over Henderson, West Virginia, and wonders what the point was.

In a discussion with researcher Jerry E. Smith, he came up with a plausible explanation. He suggested to me that the tape may have been used as an electromagnetically visible marker for aerial craft. UFO directional markers?⁸

— On the afternoon of September 26, 1967, "Shirley," living in Seaford, Long Island, heard a loud humming coming from outside her house. She looked outside to see a silver disk-like object hovering about one hundred feet in the air. As she watched the disk, the doorbell rang.

At the door stood "an Indian woman," dressed in a long, shimmering grey gown. She had a dark skin but was "not a Negro."

"Hello, Pat," the visitor said, grinning continuously, something that many MIBs are wont to do.

Shirley explained that the woman had gotten her name wrong.

"I'm sorry... I meant Shirley," she corrected herself. "Could I have some salt? I need to take a pill."

Shirley brought out a box of salt, and the woman took a large handful and swallowed it. She thanked Shirley and departed. The humming sound increased and Shirley watched as the silver disk flew away. An hour later, Shirley was stricken with nausea.

Following those strange events, Shirley often heard a baby crying in her house, while her own child was asleep. The strange woman returned on September 30, and again requested salt. This time she explained that her name was Cloe, and cautioned Shirley to lock her doors and windows at night. No flying saucer was visible in the vicinity this time.

Later that night, two men dressed in black, wearing broad-brimmed black hats and turtleneck sweaters, drove up in front

of Shirley's house in a black car. At first she took them to be priests. Outside, they set up a camera with a large red light on it, and proceeded to photograph her house. After getting back in their car, they drove off without headlights.⁹

— In February 1968, in the same vicinity, two young men claimed to have seen a flying saucer that had landed on the frozen Mohawk River. The next morning, about 300 yards away, a 16-year-old boy was found dead, deeply frozen into the ice. UFO investigator Jennifer Stevens and a group of others patrolled the banks of the river for several nights, and observed an "oval, red-glowing object" that hovered in the distance and blinked in a five-four pattern. Stevens signalled to the UFO with a flashlight, and the object seemed to signal back. The object began to approach in the direction of the group, but then blinked out of sight when an airplane appeared.

Jennifer Stevens reported the aftermath of the sighting:

[One] night when my husband, Peter, and I returned home we found Jenny, our fifteen-year-old daughter, in a highly nervous state. She said the phone had been ringing all evening. She would answer it and hear nothing at the other end but heavy breathing. When her boyfriend called they were interrupted several times by high-pitched beeping noises and were also cut off twice. The next day the calls continued. Sometimes there would be mechanical sounds, and others, the high-pitched whining, beeping sound that sent sharp pains through the mastoid bones. Our number is unlisted so I knew no one could have gotten it out of the phone book or through the operator. We had long since screened all calls through another number in order to avoid cranks. I called the telephone company and they gave our line a complete check with NO findings. The service man offered his personal opinion that the line 'could have been tapped.'

Several days after our telephone problems began, my husband, who is a building contractor, was in a large downtown Schenectady store inspecting some work and dropped into the snack bar for a cup of coffee. A few moments after he seated himself, a tall, tan, 'saturnine'-looking man, whom my husband had never seen before, sat down next to him and started a conversation. He began with, 'There have been people watching the sky every night down by the

river in Scotia.' Since Peter was one of 'those people,' he was shocked... but kept cool and said, 'I beg your pardon?'

The man proceeded to talk about UFOs. Peter tried to draw him out and asked his name, and so on. All his questions were either parried or avoided. My husband was beginning to feel a bit uncomfortable when the stranger finally excused himself after noting, 'People who look for UFOs should be very, very careful.'

Peter Stevens made two drawings of the 'saturnine' man. He sent one to researcher John Keel and kept one. A few weeks later their home was burglarized and torn apart, but nothing was taken except for the sketch. Two months later Peter Stevens, who was in his thirties, suddenly died. Jennifer Stevens believed that his death was related to the matter of UFOs, although she was unwilling to discuss the circumstances. She terminated her UFO research.¹⁰

— Late on July 11, 1967, Robert Easley of Defiance, Ohio, received a phone call from a woman acquaintance informing him that she and seven others were watching two bright UFOs. Easley dressed and drove to the scene to investigate. While in the area he noticed that he was being followed by a man in a black auto that lacked license plates.

On July 15 Easley was followed by the same car and driver. When he pulled into the driveway of his home, the car drove off. Later that night the car returned, and Easley and his girlfriend observed it parked in front of his house. The car returned again later that night.

On July 17, as he checked out another UFO sighting, Easley was followed on foot by the driver of the car. Easley described him as being dressed in black shoes and pants, with a dark pullover shirt.

Between July 11 and 17, Easley received 12 phone calls that lasted for approximately 15 seconds, the only sound on the line being beeping.¹¹

— Robert Richardson of Toledo, Ohio, while driving at night during July 1967, bumped into a UFO that was blocking the road. The UFO vanished when impacted, although a small lump of metal was later found on the road. Three days later three

men arrived at Richardson's home and interrogated him for about ten minutes. They did not identify themselves, and Richardson — to his own surprise — did not ask who they were. The men departed in a black 1953 Cadillac whose license, when checked, proved to be false. The following week Richardson was visited by two other men dressed in black with dark complexions, driving a current model Dodge. One spoke perfect English, while the other man had an accent. Richardson felt that there was something foreign about them as they tried to persuade him that he had not hit the UFO. Then they changed tactics and requested the piece of metal, whose existence was only known to Richardson, his wife, and senior members of the civilian group APRO, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization. Richardson told them that it had been given to APRO for analysis. The Men in Black threatened him, saying, "If you want your wife to stay as pretty as she is, then you'd better get the metal back."¹²

— In 1967, Col. George P. Freeman, a Pentagon spokesman for the official *Project Blue Book* study on UFOs, told John Keel in an interview that "Mysterious men dressed in Air Force uniforms or bearing impressive credentials from government agencies have been 'silencing' UFO witnesses. We have checked a number of these cases, and these men are not connected with the Air Force in any way. We haven't been able to find out anything about these men. By posing as Air Force officers and government agents they are committing a federal offense. We would sure like to catch one. Unfortunately the trail is always too cold by the time we hear about these cases. But we're still trying."¹³

In the same year, Lieutenant General Hewitt Wheless, Air Force Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, sent a memo to all commands stating, "Information, not verifiable, has reached Hq USAF that persons claiming to represent the Air Force or other Defense establishments have contacted citizens who have sighted unidentified flying objects. In one reported case an individual in civilian clothes, who represented himself as a member of NORAD, demanded and received photos belonging

to a private citizen. In another, a person in an Air Force uniform approached local police and other citizens who had sighted a UFO, assembled them in a school room and told them that they did not see what they thought they saw and that they should not talk to anyone about the sighting. All military and civilian personnel and particularly Information Officers and UFO Investigating Officers who hear of such reports should immediately notify their local OSI officers.”¹⁴

— On June 14, 1968, Thomas Wedemeyer, security chief for the Commission on Aerial Phenomena (C.A.P.), a civilian UFO investigation group based in Jamestown, New York, was visited by “Major Smedley” of the Air Force. Smedley asked Wedemeyer about James Norene, at that time the director of C.A.P. He made other inquiries about C.A.P., some of them having to do with a recent sighting of a landed UFO that had taken place in New York on June 12. The man seemed to have concern that C.A.P. might have information about the landing. Smedley wore an Air Force uniform, but did not drive a car. Wedemeyer also noted that the man had an odd accent. After Smedley left, Wedemeyer got an acute headache and forgot the content of their conversation for about five minutes.

Wedemeyer later checked with the Air Force and found that there was no “Major Smedley.”

On August 10, C.A.P. received information that in the summer of 1967 a Pennsylvania UFO investigator had also been contacted by “Major Smedley,” purporting to be an Air Force officer, and after being interrogated by the man, the researcher became violently ill and was confined to bed for two weeks.¹⁵

— An “alarming number of children” disappeared from Vilha Verde, Brazil, in August 1969, and reappeared some weeks later. The children did not recall where they had been, only that they had taken a drive in an expensive car driven by an MIB. One child claimed that she had been offered a ride in a strange machine, which the man referred to as “his airplane,” but that when she became upset he gave her some candies and sent her home.¹⁶

— Spanish physician Guillermo Arguello de la Motta, while

visiting friends near Caracas, Venezuela in July 1971, observed two MIBs sporting red ties and black berets as they exited a brand new red Mustang auto. According to Arguello,

The two men stood there waiting for about five minutes and then began to put on orange-colored belts, talking together animatedly in the meantime. Suddenly a shining object appeared in the sky. It rapidly descended and then stopped at a height of about 60 centimeters from the ground. It was circular, bell-shaped underneath, and with a turret on the upper part. Its width could have been about 30 meters. What surprised us most of all about it [were] the rapid changes of color, from orange to blue and then to white. When it halted, floating in the air, it rotated through almost 180 degrees. Suddenly a small parabolic staircase came down from the base of it, which enabled the two men from the Mustang car to enter the saucer with ease. When the staircase had been drawn in again, the craft dipped slightly towards its left side and then, following an inclined flight path, vanished into the sky at an impressive speed. The machine was of course definitely no helicopter. It was totally silent, and its shape was something totally unknown, i.e., not conventional.¹⁷

— Around 9:00 p.m. on a day in July 1972, Pat Hyde was taking in a drive-in movie with her mother in Arcadia, Florida, when she had her first encounter with the unknown. “It started off looking kind of like an ordinary star in the evening sky,” she said. “But as I watched it move across the heavens from north to south over the giant movie screen, I began to realize that the object could not be attributed to any astronomical phenomena, as the bright yellowish light was tumbling toward the earth in a falling leaf motion.

When the object got directly over the car I couldn’t see it any more so I got out of the parked automobile and strained my neck looking upward, interested in knowing if it was still visible to the naked eye. At this point, I saw a white light — a ray — shooting out from beneath the object. The best I can describe it is to say it

closely resembled a searchlight beacon in that it scanned the ground near where I stood before eventually landing directly upon me.

The light stayed on me for only three or four seconds, I would estimate. Then it continued to move along the ground as if it was searching for something.

The only sensation that Pat Hyde experienced while the beam was on her was one of warmth. Hyde's mother was upset by what had taken place: "She was almost hysterical, near tears. People in the other cars were caught up in the emotion. Someone yelled, 'Is it a helicopter?' — I knew it wasn't and my curiosity got the better of me. I just wanted to watch it, so in awe was I of this object."

The searchlight went out, and then the UFO itself started to dim. "The yellow glow faded and then [it] went straight up into the air out of view in a matter of a second or two."

Hyde returned to the car and her terrified mother. "My mom even had nightmares about this for a long time afterwards. She would even dream that they were coming to get her and take her up in the ship or something. In the nightmares I was always standing outside of the car telling them to come on and land."

The sighting compelled Pat Hyde to interview other local residents who had witnessed UFOs. "I gathered some really interesting data," Hyde recalls, but it was only after writing to a local UFO research organization that events became puzzling.

"I met this man on the street in front of our house one afternoon. He said he wanted to talk with me, that he was a reporter who knew what had happened, and was quite interested in UFOs himself. Almost immediately he started talking about all these strange things, UFO propulsion and so forth. He told me he could teach me how to build a UFO and invited me to his house for a demonstration. I thought he was kind of a nut and I got a genuinely eerie feeling about him, so much so that I even avoided shaking hands with this man. He sort of scared me and I never found out for sure how he learned of my interest in UFOs. He claimed my mother had run into him one day in the supermarket — she supposedly knew his wife — and when the subject of flying saucers came up in the course of their conver-

sation she mentioned my sighting. At the time I didn't think too much about this as we lived in a rather small town and most people know one another."

Hyde had the sensation that the man was evil. She was taken aback when he suggested that she not talk about her UFO sighting to anyone else.

A short time later, Hyde relates, "I was in the backyard when I saw this car driving by. I noticed it was a black car and it slowed down as it passed by the house. The car had tinted windows and so I couldn't see inside. The car went around the corner and I returned to working in the garden when I heard the sound of a car engine being gunned as it came around the block. It was the same car and this time it came to a complete stop at the curb and I could see several faces peering out from behind the darkened glass windows."

As she watched the black car she heard the phone ring inside her house. "I hurried to answer it, anxious to get indoors where I would be safe from whatever was threatening me. I perceived a definite feeling of evil intent about those inside the black car." When she picked up the phone she heard the voice of the "reporter" who had earlier visited her. He screamed, "What are you trying to do to me? Why did you send those men out to run me off the road?" Then the man told her the story of being out walking when a car travelling about 70 miles per hour drove directly at him, forcing him to jump onto the curb. Hyde says that, "As he got up and brushed himself off he said he was able to see inside the car as it drove off and that there were three men in the vehicle. He claimed they were all Oriental-looking."

Some years later Pat Hyde got a job working for the FBI as a typist. She explains, "I want you to understand that I didn't go around talking about my interest in UFOs during working hours. There weren't that many people who I felt were open-minded enough to relate my experience to... Late one night I was already in bed in my small apartment when there was a knock at the door. I got up and cracked the door open only an inch or so, leaving the chain lock in place. There standing in the hall was this Oriental man. At first I didn't think it too strange,

because I had an Oriental friend and this man called me by name. But it's what he said next that really shook me up. 'Miss Hyde, you will stop investigating flying saucers!' I just looked at him kind of funny and said, 'You must be crazy,' because I'm not the type of person to be frightened so easily. Next he said something to the effect, 'I'm telling you, you will!'"

Hyde slammed the door in the man's face, then opened it up again: "I got so mad that I turned around to open the door all the way and yell out at him. However, when I looked up and down the hall there was nobody there."

Hyde describes the Oriental man as wearing either a dark blue or black suit, and that he had eyes that were more sharply slanted than anyone she has ever seen. Soon after the encounter, Hyde quit her job with the FBI, but the strange occurrences did not end.

"I was walking on the street, going back to my apartment one night, when this man came up and grabbed my purse. I kind of thought, well, he's going to rob me. He just stood still and dumped the contents of the pocketbook upside down, and when I asked him what he was doing, he said it was none of my business. He searched through everything, throwing my wallet to one side. I knew then he wasn't looking for money, but what was he searching for? Eventually he came across my notebook containing notes on the UFO sightings I had investigated in Florida — I still carried it around with me. Finding this he ripped the little pad into many pieces."

At this point, the man told her that he was a police officer. Hyde said, "I asked him to show me some identification and as I stepped forward to defend my rights as an American citizen, he pushed me aside and then backward. As I made a move towards him, I felt someone else grabbing me from behind and two men took hold of me. I was turned around and pushed toward a van at the side of the road with both the front and side doors open. I began to fight with all my might as I realized they planned to abduct me. I knew they weren't police officers as they were dressed in dark clothing and none of them said

anything to me, except the first individual who had stated that it was none of my business what he was doing.”

Hyde was handcuffed and driven in the van for awhile. Because the blacked-out windows she was unable to tell where they went.

“The next thing I knew it was like seven hours later. I don’t know what happened during that time and frankly I know we didn’t drive around more than 15 minutes. But when we arrived at our final destination, the clock on the wall said 5:00 a.m., though it should have been only around 9:00 p.m.”

Hyde was dragged down a corridor and told by two other men where she was: in a hospital, and that she had tried to commit suicide by leaping out the window of the FBI building. “This I knew was a boldfaced lie,” Hyde recounts, “because I hadn’t been working there for several weeks and I’d never thought about committing suicide in my entire life.”

Hyde was taken down a passageway that reminded her of an old armory. She was taken to a room where, “they wanted me to drink something, and I told them I wasn’t going to do it and they almost broke my neck making me take this liquid down. They threw me in a tiny room after this and untied my hands, which had been bound from the time they had put me in the back of the van. They wanted me to sign a piece of paper, and when I refused, they left me alone and didn’t come back till the next day.”

The next morning Hyde woke up feeling drugged. “There was a small window near the ceiling which was barred and there was a plant growing up by the window so I couldn’t see out to the ground. I went toward the door and it opened when I took hold of the doorknob, so I wasn’t locked in. I walked out and there was a man standing in the hallway. I asked him who he was and he said it didn’t really matter, and he chuckled and said I was in a psychiatric ward. He explained that my doctor had me committed for trying to commit suicide the night before. I told him I didn’t have any doctor, that I was perfectly well and wanted to go home.”

Pat Hyde was brought before another man in an office. “I

don't know if he was a foreigner, but he had light-colored hair and sounded German. He said to me, 'I'm your doctor,' and when I asked what his name was he just told me it didn't matter. He knew who I was, my full name, where I had worked. When he told me I had tried to jump out the fifth story window of the FBI building, I reminded him that all of the windows were barred. With this he looked at me and said, 'You will admit that you tried to kill yourself or you'll never leave here.'” Hyde says that she was questioned by the doctor. “He wanted to know if I had psychic powers, could talk to the dead, if I believed in flying saucers. Something clicked in my mind, and I just looked at him, refusing to speak.”

Kept in the same tiny room for several days, Hyde believed that she was the victim of brainwashing. “They went through the same quiz regularly and tried to convince me that I had tried to kill myself. I kept denying this and about a week later the doctor put a telephone in front of me and said I could call my mother. 'Tell her to come and get you.'” As Hyde reached for the receiver of the telephone, the doctor pulled it away. “But only if you promise not to do any more UFO research,” he told her.

Hyde promised the man that she would discontinue her research, and was allowed to call her mother. An address was provided in Georgetown where she could be picked up, and she was taken in the van and dropped off at the location, which was a vacant building. After she was picked up, Hyde and her mother went to the local police station. There she was told that no one had been recently taken into custody in the city for a suicide attempt.¹⁸

— On May 3, 1975, private aircraft pilot Carlos de los Santos nearly collided with three disk craft in Mexico, with the incident being confirmed by radar at a Mexico City airport. Travelling on the freeway to discuss the incident on television a week later, de los Santos was pulled over by two brand new black Ford Galaxie limousines. Four men in black suits approached de los Santos and warned him in Spanish in a “mechanical tone” to be quiet about the incident “if you value your

life and your family's, too." A month later on his way to visit with American scientist and ufologist J. Allen Hynek, de los Santos met an MIB on the hotel steps. The MIB shoved him, and made a statement leading de los Santos to believe that he had been under observation. Again, de los Santos missed his appointment.¹⁹

— Anton Ponce de Leon is an Argentine anthropologist and ufologist. He describes one of his investigations:

"In the year 1975 there was much talk about UFO sightings in Sicuani, particularly at night, and the peasants were talking about something very worrisome to them, that they were hearing noises under the ground as if machines were working there, according to their expression." While in Sicuani Ponce de Leon met with a reporter from the newspaper *Ultima Hora*, from Lima, Peru. The reporter had taken very clear photos of three UFOs in Capillani, Argentina. The reporter turned over the roll of film containing the shots to a photographer friend to be developed. As Mr. Ponce de Leon stated in a lecture, "When the man returned to his hotel, he found that his room was all messed up. He inquired with the concierge, who told him that 'two gentlemen in black and with hats had come saying that they were friends of yours. As they told me that they were looking for you, I let them enter your room because they were going to wait for you there. Now, I don't know from where they left the hotel.'"

When the reporter checked with the photographer he found that "the men in black had visited the photographer and requested the negatives, saying that the reporter wasn't able to come and had asked them to pick up the photos." Sensing that something was wrong, the photographer told them that the reporter had already picked the negatives up.

The harassment continued. According to Ponce de Leon, "He would leave some papers and the papers would disappear. He would return to his hotel and his room had been inspected again. He changed hotels but the problem continued. Finally, he grabbed a taxi and came to Cuzco very frightened. He visited me in Cuzco, where I personally studied the negatives and I have

no doubt that they are authentic. As he was extremely frightened, he took the first plane back to Lima and left the negatives with me. I sent them by mail and a few days later the story was published in the newspaper *Ultima Hora*."²⁰

— Between June and October 1976 there were at least 22 incidents of cattle mutilation in Madison County, Montana. There were also numerous reports of black helicopters, UFOs, and mysterious white vans travelling in remote areas. During this period a hunter observed a black unmarked helicopter disappear behind a hill in the Red Mountain area near Norris, Montana. The curious hunter climbed to the top of the hill, where he observed seven men walking toward the top of the hill. The hunter waved and shouted a greeting, then realized that the men were all Oriental, wearing civilian clothing, and were speaking in an unknown language. When they saw the hunter, the Orientals fled, climbed into the chopper, and took off.

The relationship of the incident to the Men in Black phenomenon lies in the fact that MIBs often appear to be Oriental and, of course, in the color of the choppers. Although incidents linking MIBs and black helicopters are relatively rare (rare enough so that I did not broach the topic in my book *Black Helicopters Over America*), there is the possibility that the phenomena are interrelated in some manner.²¹

— Although the following account may be dismissed as the imagination of a child, certain corroborative details make the case worthy of consideration. On April 29, 1989, after watching *Star Trek* on television, 'Roger R.' went to bed. He was awakened by voices and saw four creatures about five foot six. He describes the entities as having heart-shaped heads with two giant black eyes, nose holes, mouth slits, and gold skin. They apparently spoke to him telepathically. The creatures placed Roger on a white, glasslike floating table, and floated him to the window. He told them that if they opened the window the burglar alarm would go off, and they told him it would not. They opened the window and floated him next to his apartment, into a field, and then into a saucer-shaped craft.

Inside the saucer, Roger then remembers standing next to a

black glass table with buttons on it. He watched a screen as the saucer took off. One of the creatures asked him what he was and he replied that he was a human, and a boy. They asked his name, which he gave them, and informed him that they knew his parents.

Going into another room, Roger was shown film of a friend, Nancy, who was in a hospital. They told him that she was not going to be reborn, because she had been born too many times. They also told him that his mother would get a new job that paid well, and showed him the building she would work in. Roger was also shown film of a boy from the past and a girl going into a saucer where she would be studied.

A probe like a small red ball followed Roger and took samples from a sore that he had on his finger. A blood sample was also taken. Going into another room he saw an approximately 30-year-old human male sitting on a table, although they did not speak. A door was opened in the craft and Roger was floated into a larger ship, one that he described as being the size of four apartment complexes.

Roger's night clothes were removed and he was given a red suit that he describes as being like those worn in Star Trek. In the larger craft, another ball-shaped probe, this one blue, followed him. The probes occasionally emitted red beams over his body. Roger says they were taking brain scans.

Roger was informed that his abductors had hidden some Shirley MacLaine books from his father because the books were wrong, and written only for money. They had also left the book *Communion* by Whitley Streiber open on a bookshelf, propped open to page 112, so that his father would read an important passage.

Roger received another "brain scan" from a laser device that fit over his head and shoulders, and was shown future films of himself, including scenes of skiing at age 13. He was shown a near-auto accident that had happened to his family in Daytona Beach, Florida, and was told that they, the aliens, had averted the accident.

In another room, there were orange-colored aliens with

three fingers. In yet another room jungle animals were in cages, including hybrids: one a tiger-alligator, another a lion-bear.

Roger was told about his grandfather in Germany. They said that on the "First Planet" he had been killed and reborn on this planet. The First Planet had been destroyed and was now the asteroid belt. He was told that they had created this planet, and that it had been populated by people from the First Planet.

On a screen Roger was shown a large room with men walking around with blue coats and face masks. On their arms were patches embroidered with the acronym NASA. There were four or five aliens the NASA men were experimenting on, sticking needles into them. These aliens were turning greenish yellow as the experimentation went on. Roger's abductors explained that the ones being experimented on were dying.

Roger was told that the Men in Black are members of NASA, and that they brutalize the aliens, who are only here to help Earth.

Roger and his abductors left the larger ship and returned to the smaller. Then he was taken home, returned this time through the front door. His abductors told Roger that they would be seeing him again, later. The following morning after the apparent abduction, Roger woke up to see a black 4-door Ford sitting on the other side of the parking lot next to his apartment. Getting out his binoculars Roger saw a man in a black suit observing him. As the car left, he noticed that the license plate said "Government."

Roger's father — who had spent most of his life on government bases and who was able to recognize government choppers — noted that for the two days following the reported abduction government helicopters had been flying around his house. He also noted that two weeks before the incident he had seen a man looking into his bedroom window, and had pursued him. The man got into a car that had been waiting for him and escaped. Roger's father thought the incident strange because the man had been wearing a suit.²²

— In June 1990 a farmer in Tipperary County, Ireland, was surprised to find that two "crop circles" had been inscribed in

his oat fields. A week later, another crop circle appeared, with another appearing a week after. The morning that the final crop circle appeared the farmer, Mr. McCleary, was walking around his property when a thin man dressed completely in black stepped out from behind a shed.

"There was something, well, *dead* about him," McCleary remembered. "I don't know how else to put it." The MIB was dressed in "a proper suit," but it appeared that it had been "pulled out of a trunk which had been locked for at least 50 years. The first thing he mumbled to me was something about it being a nice day. It was a common enough thing to say, but he had the words slightly wrong. Now I am used to Americans and other visitors, but this problem he had with the language was peculiar, somehow."

According to McCleary the MIB asked him about the crop circles, but McCleary refused to talk about them. "I told him I had to be getting on my way and that he had better get onto the main road again. I meant to insinuate that he should get off my property, but I didn't want to be overly rude."

The MIB asked him, "But you didn't tell us about the designs. Why did the second and third bunch come up when the first bunch already had? It is in your best interest to tell us... or else!"

McCleary says that, "His question made little sense to me. First, I hadn't thought of them as 'designs' and certainly not as 'bunches.' And how the hell would I know why they showed up? He acted as if I was their master or their maker. He talked as if they were trained animals who had found their owner. It was all so illogical that his threat bounced off me." Although tabloid television has carefully avoided the story, it has been speculated that crop circles are the product of agencies far from extraterrestrial or paranormal. There is in fact compelling evidence that the crop circles may be linked to Star Wars military laser testing. This topic is treated extensively in my book *Casebook on Alternative 3*.²³

— A couple watching UFO activity near Groom Lake, Nevada on March 16, 1993, observed strange lights that seemed

to transform into an automobile. After the sighting, they sensed that they had experienced “missing time.” Undergoing hypnosis later, they recalled the man’s abduction into a UFO by grey aliens, while the woman was taken into a white van. The woman recalled that in the van were two Men in Black with black ball caps who restrained her and probed her ear canal with a strange instrument, and administered eye drops to her. The MIBs warned her not to speak of the incident. “Missing time” is not necessarily proof of alien abduction. It has been noted that the experience can be induced by the drug Haldol (generic name: haloperidol) and possibly other drugs when administered in slight overdose.²⁴

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Estimate of the Situation

Considering the above-cited cases, it must be asked whether U.S. government intelligence agencies would really be interested in stopping people from talking about their UFO sightings. There is much evidence to suggest it.

One of the most significant and little-commented-upon origins for the Men in Black stories were the operations of the FBI during World War II. FBI men were dispatched around the country by J. Edgar Hoover to caution witnesses against reporting the crash of Japanese Fugo assault balloons, launched with payloads of germs or explosives, of which approximately 350 landed in the United States. Entire schools of children were warned not to touch the Fugos, and to immediately report them to authorities. Aside from quelling possible anxiety in the American populace, the purpose of this verified "Silence Group" was to prevent information on the effectiveness of the Fugos from getting back to the Japanese. John Keel suggests that Ray Palmer, the editor of *Amazing Stories*, may have heard some of these FBI cover-up stories, and that details may have filtered into the Shaver Mystery stories (arguably influential in the MIB mythos) being published at that time.¹ Other "black ops" incidents of MIBs — incidents betraying details suggesting that they might be the work of human, rather than paranormal agents — closely coincide with the time frame of documented Air Force and FBI concerns about UFO groups.

The following policy statement was issued by the FBI to its agents on July 30, 1947:

FLYING DISCS — The Bureau, at the request of the Army Air Forces Intelligence, has agreed to cooperate in the investigation of flying discs. The Air Forces have confidentially advised that it is possible to release three or more discs in odd numbers, attached together by a wire, from an airplane at high altitudes and that these discs would obtain tremendous speed in their descent and would descend to the earth in an arc. The Army Air Forces Intelligence has also indicated some concern that the reported sightings might have been made by subversive individuals for the purpose of creating mass hysteria.

You should investigate each instance which is brought to your attention of a sighting of a flying disc in order to ascertain whether or not it is a bona fide sighting, an imaginary one, or a prank. You should also bear in mind that individuals might report seeing flying discs for various reasons. It is conceivable that an individual might be desirous of seeking personal publicity, causing hysteria, or playing a prank.

The Bureau should be notified immediately by teletype of all reported sightings and the results of your inquiries. In instances where the report appears to have merit, the teletype should be followed by a letter to the Bureau containing in detail the results of your inquiries. The Army Air Forces have assured the Bureau complete cooperation in the matters, and in any instances where they fail to make information available to you to make the recovered discs available for your examination, it should promptly be brought to the attention of the Bureau.

Any information you develop in connection with these discs should be promptly brought to the attention of the Army through your usual liaison channels.”²

In 1953 a joint CIA/Air Force panel met in Washington, and made the following recommendation:

The Panel took cognizance of the existence of such groups as the ‘Civilian Flying Saucer Investigators’ of Los Angeles and the ‘Aerial Phenomena Research Organization’ (Wisconsin). It was believed that such organizations should be watched because of their great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should

occur. The apparent irresponsibility and the possible use of such groups for subversive purposes should be kept in mind.³

Thus, Air Force intelligence and the CIA, in the paranoid "I Led Three Lives" period, were led to believe that members of UFO groups were possible enemies of the State. But then, everyone in that period was suspect. I remember, as a child in the early '50s weaned on television, thinking that my grandmother was a communist who was going to turn me over to the 'Other Side.'

H. Marshall Caldwell, the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, wrote a memo to the Director of the CIA, Walter Smith. Discussing the national security implications of "flying saucers," Caldwell reported:

With world-wide sightings reported, it was found that, up to the time of the investigation, there had been in the Soviet press no report or comment, even satirical, on flying saucers, though Gromyko had made one humorous mention of the subject. With a State-controlled press, this could result only from an official policy decision. The question, therefore, arises as to whether or not these sightings:

- (1) could be controlled,
- (2) could be predicted, and
- (3) could be used from a psychological warfare point of view, either offensively or defensively.

The public concern with the phenomena, which is reflected both in the United States press and in the pressure of inquiry upon the Air Force, indicates that a fair proportion of our population is mentally conditioned to the acceptance of the incredible. In this fact lies the potential for the touching-off of mass hysteria and panic.

Later in the document, Caldwell recommends:

A study should be instituted to determine what, if any, utilization could be made of these phenomena by United States psychological warfare planners...

Aside from the talk proliferating in the popular media about

the government's "UFO coverup" and secret treaties with the aliens, there are other possibilities about what was going on at the dawn of ufology. Rev. Allen Greenfield has stated that, "In 1975 I had occasion to speak with the former Pentagon Monitor of the U.S. Air Force's UFO project, Major Dewey Fournet, and he did offer a plausible 'non-ET' rationale for suppressing UFOlogy — after UFOs were seen visually and on radar over the White House and Capitol in 1952, the CIA noted that the hysteria created effectively jammed all military communications channels for a period long enough for a 'foreign power' (as they said in the Cold War years) to stage a sneak attack under cover of a manufactured 'UFO' wave."⁴ There may have been other reasons that the military wanted the populace to be confused about the actual nature of the UFOs, one of them being that the U.S. may have been building functional flying disk craft of its own.

"Flying Saucers - The Real Story: U.S. Built First One in 1942" from the *U.S. News and World Report* from the April 7, 1950, issue, expands upon early governmental testing of flying disk craft:

Flying saucers, seen by hundreds of competent observers over most parts of the U.S., are accepted as real. Evidence is that they are aircraft of a revolutionary type, a combination of helicopter and fast jet plane. They conform to well-known principles of aerodynamics. An early model of these saucers was built by U.S. engineers in 1942, achieved more than 100 successful test flights. That project then was taken over by the Navy in wartime. Much more advanced models now are being built... In more detail, the story pieced together from nonsecret testimony of responsible U.S. scientists, private observers and military officials is this:

Early models of the flying saucer... were built by U.S. government engineers of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics... The first U.S. model, designed by Charles H. Zimmerman, of NACA, was elliptical in shape, powered by two piston engines and driven by twin propellers. It had a maximum speed between 400 and 500 miles per hour. More important, it could rise almost vertically and its minimum speed for landing was only

about 35 miles an hour, a great advantage in military and naval aircraft...

What they look like... is described in well-documented accounts. Those accounts show saucers to be exactly 105 feet in diameter, circular in shape. They have what appear to be jet nozzles arranged all around the outer rim, just below the center of gravity. They are made of a metal alloy with a dull whitish color. There are no rudders, ailerons, or other protruding surfaces. From the side the saucers appear about ten feet thick — there are no exact measurements from this angle in publicly available records. They are built in three layers, with the center layer slightly larger in diameter than the other two...

The Americans may not have been the only ones building flying saucers during this period. This is evidenced by the following FBI memo dated March 25, 1949:

For your confidential information, a reliable and confidential source has advised the Bureau that flying discs are believed to be man-made missiles rather than natural phenomenon. It has also been determined that for approximately the past four years the USSR has been engaged in experimentation on an unknown type of flying disc.

Additional evidence of Russian testing of craft conforming to some descriptions of UFOs is provided in a declassified CIA document:

At 1630, 4 Oct. 55, I boarded a train at [deleted] in the company of [deleted] one of whom shared a Wagon-Lit compartment with me; the other two occupied the adjoining compartment. The train ran very slowly, making every stop; I would estimate its overall speed at 20 m.p.h. Exactly two hours and 40 minutes out of [deleted] one of our group in the compartment next door entered my compartment and said, 'Did you see that out there? I just saw a flying saucer.' I and my compartment companion were about to laugh it off when the man from next door pointed out of the window again, and then we all saw the following sight.

On the lefthand side of the train, between the train [deleted] was a large air field. The evening was dark but clear. A huge search [deleted, apparently 'light'] on the field itself, [deleted, possibly

'directed'] on a triangular object on the ground which I would say was probably not more than two miles distant from the railroad. (Collector's comment: source first estimated that the air field was about five miles away but, on further reflection, changed the distance to the object to two miles). The size of the object was comparable to that of [deleted] jet fighter, with a squat shape and in the form of an equilateral triangle. There were three lights on the object, one on each point of the triangle, presumably two wing lights and a tail light. As we watched, it was ejected from its launching site, making not less than three and not more than seven fast spirals in the air, after which it climbed extremely fast at about a 45 degree angle. We watched it climb and saw it reach a high altitude, the search [deleted, apparently 'light'] followed it all the way.

I wish to emphasize that this was no ordinary take-off but a launching procedure more like a missile ejection. Our companion from next door reported that this was the second launching in rapid succession.

I believe that the train at the time of the sighting was between 50 and 65 miles south of [deleted]. While the four of us were still watching the object ascending, the steward came in and pulled down the blinds. When I began to protest, the steward pointed toward the rear of the car and shook his head [deleted].⁵

A checklist of areas of frequent sightings in Major Donald E. Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, published in 1953, has the craft congregating around atomic energy plants (with four sites mentioned, indicating Los Alamos as a point of frequent observations), U.S. Air Force bases (over 40 listed), Naval and Marine Corps bases (11 listed), aircraft plants in four states ("where most of the industry is concentrated," Keyhoe comments), the rocket base at White Sands, New Mexico, and most of the major cities of the U.S. While vague enough statistically to make it difficult to prove much, the preponderance of UFO sightings around military and aircraft locations may be telling. The story that aliens in saucers are "interested" in atomic research or the military, as proposed by Keyhoe and others, is a far less likely explanation than that these sites were the source of the phenomena. What, after all, could an alien

learn about Los Alamos or atomic testing from an altitude of 40,000 feet?⁶ Toward the end of his career, Major Keyhoe, whom I consider to have possibly functioned as a UFO disinformation agent for the government, even alluded to advanced testing by the government in his otherwise rather science fictional *Aliens from Space* book:

In the early sixties... Some researchers believed we would soon be able to duplicate UFOs. Several project heads had already gone on record, before the lid went down. Walter Dornberger, president of Bell Aerospace [and a former Nazi general, who with von Braun had been in charge of the V-2 project in Germany. Dornberger and von Braun are also persuasively linked to the JFK assassination in *Nomenclature of an Assassination Cabal*], had predicted airliner speeds of at least 10,000 miles an hour. G.S. Trimble, head of a huge Martin Aircraft G [for gravity] project, put the figure at over 14,000 mph. Plane designer Alexander de Seversky predicted trips to the moon in three and a half hours, to Venus in thirty-six, to Mars in two days and to far-off Jupiter in six days.

By 1964, seven aerospace companies had Top Secret G-projects — Bell, Boeing, Convair, Douglas, Hughes, Lockheed and Martin. Other projects on basic theory and G-testing devices, listed by the Scientific Information Exchange, included AF Flight Dynamics, AF General Physics Research, RCA, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and outstanding researchers at twenty-one U.S. and foreign universities, among them Dr. Thomas Gold at Cornell, Dr. Bryce DeWitt at North Carolina, Dr. R.H. Dicke at Princeton and Dr. Herman Bondi at King's College, London.

In recent years the existence of “flying saucer”-like craft — or at least aircraft with exotic configurations and flight capabilities — has been fairly easily verified by observation outside the military installation known as Area 51 in Nevada. What has not been confirmed are the wild tales of alien collaboration and back-engineering of Plieadian runabouts as touted by men like John Lear, Bob Lazar, and Bill Cooper.

There is convincing evidence that the U.S. and other governments have experimented with aerial craft conforming to the description of “flying saucers,” and in order to keep this testing

secret, have engaged in disinformation. Far from “covering up” UFO contact, it seems, since the beginning of interest in UFOs in the late 1940s and 50s, the government and its agents have been working hard to sell the extraterrestrial interpretation of unusual aircraft to the public. Since the coining of the term “flying saucer” in newspaper stories about Kenneth Arnold’s June 24, 1947, sighting, there have been suggestions that we haven’t been getting the whole story. Arnold would initially say that he believed that he had observed Army or Navy craft, but was surprised by their lack of tail structures.

Captain Adams and First Officer Anderson, after sighting an unknown aerial craft as they were flying an airliner over Arkansas on the summer equinox in 1950, said, “Firmly we believe the flying saucer we saw was a secret experimental type aircraft — not a visitor from outer space.” Another UFO witness, Captain Robert Adickes, piloting a TWA passenger plane on April 28, 1950, observed a large disk-like object flying on its rim, wheel-like, beside his plane for five minutes. But Adickes was adamant that the craft was terrestrial, insisting that it was not “a machine from Mars.” He issued the practical warning that, “Whoever is building these things, I think they’re dangerous flying around the airways. If one got out of control, it could cause an accident.”

In the aftermath of press coverage of Kenneth Arnold’s sighting, a survey by the Gallup organization discovered that 32 percent of the American public believed that the UFOs were experimental aircraft of some sort, 22 percent thought they were a hoax or an illusion, while only 5 percent believed the sightings to be craft “from another planet or star.” Newspaper accounts of the time at first emphasized the possibility that the phenomena were of primarily a terrestrial military or intelligence agency origin, but others saw the matter much differently... and for understandable reasons. By 1952 the public’s belief that UFOs were terrestrial craft of an unknown nature was starting to change, influenced by media mammoths such as *Life* magazine, which in 1952 came out with a story titled “Have We Visitors from Space?”, seriously considering the possibility that UFOs

were interplanetary craft — without a shred of evidence to suggest that this was in fact the case.

It has been stated repeatedly that the U.S. government during the early 1950s was seriously trying to cover up the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors; if so, it is hard to countenance the statements of a man like Major Hector Quintanella Jr., who headed the *Project Bluebook* investigation of UFOs for the Air Force: "...It is impossible to prove that flying saucers do not exist," Quintanella stated, and, "We are spending millions to develop our own rocket boosters to get our spacecraft to the moon and beyond. Imagine what a great help it would be to get our hands on a ship from another planet and examine its power plant."

In 1952 Royal Canadian Air Force Intelligence and the Canadian Defense Research Board both announced that they were launching investigations into the matter of the saucers. At about the same time an astronomer for the Naval Observatory in Washington was telling the press that it could not be ruled out that the UFOs were actually space ships.

About the same time, an Air Force intelligence officer named Colonel W.C. Odell wrote an article for the *Astronomical Society of the Pacific* magazine, titled in no uncertain terms, "Planet Earth — Host to Extraterrestrial Life." Colonel Odell theorized that aliens from a dying planet were conducting a survey of Earth as a possible new home. The article was cleared by Air Force Security and Review, who issued only one stipulation prior to its release: that Colonel Odell was not to be identified as an Air Force officer within the pages of the magazine.

As mentioned above, as early as 1953 Marine Major Donald E. Keyhoe, in bestselling books such as *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* and *Aliens from Space*, was taking it as a foregone conclusion that the UFOs were extraterrestrial vehicles, while considering the idea that they might be examples of advanced and secret terrestrial technology as being beneath any rational person's consideration. Keyhoe cut off big sections of blue

extraterrestrial sky as his private terrain, examining lists of possible explanations for the “alien visitors”, such as:

1. The unknown planet race — perhaps more than one — may fear an eventual invasion when we achieve space travel...

2. The spacemen may fear the effect of more powerful atomic explosions, especially if this race comes from a solar-system planet...

3. If the unknown race uses atomic energy, it may be exhausting its supply of uranium...

4. The saucer race may intend to invade us as part of a program to conquer inhabited planets...

5. They may have some unknown plan for the earth beside plain conquest.

6. Our planet may not be considered a menace, and it may not hold any material interest leading to an invasion. The surveillance then could be for one of two reasons: A. To survey the earth with the intention of contact, once the saucer race has convinced us of its peaceful intentions and is sure we will not attack them. B. To catalogue the earth as just another inhabited planet, with no plans for immediate contact...

Keyhoe's speculations, which included great amounts of theorization that the Earth was soon to be invaded by saucer men, read like they are cribbed from the crummy dialogue of the UFO movie extravaganzas that Hollywood was churning out at the same time, films like “Earth Vs. the Flying Saucers,” “War of the Worlds,” and “The Day the Earth Stood Still” — and this may not have been an accident, either. These motion pictures injected the notion into the public mind that disk craft should be associated solely with invaders from other planets. This attitude cannot be ascribed entirely to the work of script-writers. Disks and little green men were in fact a new image synthesis: until the early 1950s science fiction had abounded with images of bug-eyed monsters (termed BEMs by the buffs) but they almost invariably piloted rockets, not saucers. There are very few images of disk craft in science fiction until 1947, when it was suddenly assumed that there were aliens out there, and that they piloted nothing but.

If it seems unlikely that the military could have influenced the media to the extent of planting stories and dictating the slant of the news, the Robertson Report sponsored by the CIA in 1953, now partially declassified, talks about a program whose intention was exactly the opposite of Keyhoe's and Odell's, namely the "education" of the public through the "debunking" of UFOs. The Robertson Report states that, "This education could be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular articles..." indicating that the military, at least, believed that they had the capability of dictating what went into the media. There is no doubt that the government did engage in a number of public "education" programs that were intended to debunk the existence of UFOs, even if in a manner that sometimes debunked the debunkers, as for instance in the instance of the "swamp gas" variety of hot air as disseminated by an Air Force investigation headed by J. Allen Hynek in 1966. If this kind of report was seriously intended to shoot the extraterrestrial theory out of the firmament, it did nothing of the sort. The public's reaction was personified by a headline of the *South Bend Tribune*: "AIR FORCE INSULTS PUBLIC WITH SWAMP GAS THEORY."

So what is the explanation of the conflicting signals seemingly given out by the military at the inception of public interest in UFOs? What if both programs, that of debunking and the promotion of UFOs as being of extraterrestrial origin, were in effect at the time? Could it have been in the military's interest to promote confusion among a populace carefully conditioned to believe everything the authorities told them? As a control strategem, the approach is not without precedent. The stimulation of conflicting beliefs in an individual as a means of reshaping their personality is, in fact, referred to in behavioral psychology as the technique of cognitive dissonance. Cognitive dissonance incidentally happens to be a key method by which belief is shaped in the "education" of students in public schools today, and a clue is perhaps provided in the literature of public education. In a paper directed to school administrators, "The

Place of Psychology in a National Institute of Education," it is stated that:

A form of reinforcement... particularly appropriate in an educational context is 'dissonance reduction.' If a student can be led to recognize that two previously unrelated beliefs, both of which he holds, are in fact contradictory, he can be motivated to resolve this discrepancy and should be particularly receptive to instruction that helps him reduce this cognitive dissonance.

UFO researcher Jacques Vallee has isolated patterns of UFO activity, terming them a "Schedule of Reinforcement." He notes that in UFO waves between 1947 and 1962 peaks and valleys of activity are seen in intervals that are almost too regular not to have been pre-determined.

Vallee summarizes the concept of "reinforcement":

Drastic modification of the behavior of an animal (including man) can be achieved by selectively reinforcing certain actions (for instance by giving food to a pigeon only when he presses a certain lever). However, certain ways of reinforcing behavior lead to better learning than others. If the training is too even and monotonous the subject may stop in its development, or even return to an earlier state; the best schedule of reinforcement is one that combines periodicity with unpredictability. Learning is then slow but continuous. It leads to the highest level of adaptation. And it is irreversible.

Although Vallee sees this schedule of reinforcement as being fostered by a currently unexplainable force pushing mankind through a learning curve, it is interesting to note that behavioral scientists have been obsessed with just this type of activity. The following quote is taken from *Patterns of Reinforcement* by B.F. Skinner, "The technological use of schedules of reinforcement is rapidly expanding... Techniques involving schedules have been adapted to a wide range of species. Surprisingly similar performances, particularly under complex schedules, have been demonstrated in organisms as diverse as the pigeon, mouse, rat, dog, cat and monkey. At the human level the analysis of

schedules has proved useful in the study of psychotic behavior and in the design of educational techniques for normal human subjects... Other applications to the problem of the control of human behavior, as in law and penology, religion, industry, and commerce, offer considerable promise." It is not insignificant that the above report was sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. I leave it to the reader to ponder the possible ramifications.⁷ Part of the effort of government to monitor and influence ufologists was the infiltration of agents into civilian UFO research groups. On the board of the influential civilian group NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) during the 1950s were at least three intelligence agents: Bernard Corvalho, Nicholas de Rochefort, and Colonel Joseph Ryan.

When I interviewed UFO journalist Jim Moseley, he offered the interesting suggestion that NICAP itself may have been the source of some MIB incidents. Moseley said, "I think the MIB stuff was a combination of many things. One which is little known is NICAP was in Washington, D.C. and it sounds very officially governmental to people who don't know anything about it. No doubt it was intended to be. I think in some case, in fact some are provable, people would go from NICAP with that I.D. and either deliberately or accidentally impress the sighters with the fact that they were with the government, and those people considered themselves hushed up by the government... They would say, 'Don't talk to anyone but us about this,' because they wanted the exclusive."⁸

After the publication of his first book, *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, early extraterrestrial contactee George Adamski had his own MIB encounter. Writing in 1956, Adamski said,

I was visited by three men, two of which I had met previously, but the third was a stranger. It was he who took the role of authority and direly threatened me, demanding certain papers I had, for one thing. Some of these I gave him, and was promised their return, but this promise was never kept. Since I did not exactly understand to what he had reference, I did not give him some of my important papers. There is no denying that I was frightened. Before they left

I was told to stop talking or they would come after me, lock me up and throw the key away.⁹

On the other hand, given Adamski's inventiveness as evidenced by his unbelievable UFO contact books, he may have made up the story to demonstrate that he was on the politically correct side in the ufology/government wars. By pointing out that the government was attempting to silence him, Adamski may have been attempting to bolster his credibility, for there was apparently more to the man than met the eye.

Adamski admitted that his entree into ufology was ushered by three scientists from Point Loma Naval Electronics Laboratory near San Diego and from another facility in Pasadena. The scientists contacted Adamski and asked him to "cooperate in the collective attempt to get photographs of the strange craft moving through space." Adamski was also financially backed by a former British intelligence officer, and reportedly travelled with a passport "bearing special privileges."¹⁰ Adamski had other interesting connections, including with the American Nazi William Dudley Pelley. George Hunt Williamson, who claimed to have witnessed one of Adamski's extraterrestrial contacts, and became a well-known ufologist in his own right, worked for Pelley's occult group Soulcraft about 1950.¹¹

Even Adamski's opinion of the MIB seems flavored by his associations. He concurred with certain other ufologists, that the international banksters are the secret force behind the Men in Black: "Zurich, financial center of the world, is the international headquarters for the 'Silence Group'!" Adamski declared. "The invisible reins of financial influence extend from Zurich to puppet organizations in every nation!"¹² Contactees George Hunt Williamson and John McCoy, in *UFOs Confidential!*, also proclaimed they knew the identities of the Men in Black, agreeing with Adamski: "[The] three men are not just peculiar to 'Saucer' investigation, for there have always been 'three men' present during every great event of recorded (and unrecorded) history. They operate as hired henchmen of the 'International Bankers' and their only duty is to suppress all men who would

act as channels of truth to other men... These secret world rulers will never allow official UFO announcements to be made to the public. If they did allow it, it would spell their doom. If the technology of the space visitors is revealed it will immediately eliminate the need for oil, gas, automobiles, and practically everything else that drains the public and keeps every family in America on a credit-buying spree until they are deposited six feet under.”¹³

A UFO hoax documentably staged by the Air Force took place over Clearwater, Florida, on July 4, 1964. Red flares were dropped over the ocean, and the Air Force later issued requests for information about six “mysterious” lights, receiving about 80 responses. These reports were then evaluated for accuracy by the Air Force. Certainly red flares are not comparable in magnitude to alien abduction incidents, but remember, this is a disinformation incident that the government has admitted to.¹⁴

Currently, it is highly interesting that many of the most famous and vocal individuals in the UFO research community currently have connections to the military and to intelligence agencies. A large number of other “UFO researchers” also seem to find it impossible to entertain the idea that UFO contact might have any other source than extraterrestrial.

I am not suggesting that all individuals who insist on a strictly extraterrestrial origin for saucer sightings are agents of the government. I do not believe that to be the case. Some are no doubt sincere researchers, some write in broad loops with fat crayons, while others are aware of the entrepreneurial side of the UFO field: grey aliens sell books and make for scarifying public appearances; blowing the lid on government disinformation ploys does not.

Cases that suggest a human origin or connection to UFOs are very rarely mentioned in the literature of the subject, and whether it is because the subject is hushed up by the government or others, or whether it simply doesn’t make quite so inflammatory copy as stirring accounts of bug-eyed aliens doing vaginal examinations on Geraldo regulars, I don’t know. It is probably a combination of both. I do note that UFO treatises emanating

from researchers who are former members of military intelligence or who have been connected to intelligence agencies in some manner just can't seem to stay away from the possibility that Earth is being invaded by bug-eyed aliens.

There is a growing body of evidence suggesting an additional and incredible aspect to UFO encounters. Many of these "flying saucer" incidents may be purposely simulated by intelligence agencies. We do know that the government has given consideration to certain "special effects" technologies that could simulate UFO contact. For instance, during the Nixon administration a White House task force proposed that an image of Christ be projected onto the clouds above Cuba with a laser, in order to disorient the populace during an American invasion.¹⁵

In an investigation of British psychological warfare, clinical psychologist Peter Watson revealed that "equipment has been developed to use low-lying clouds as a screen off of which to bounce huge propaganda shows. Tape recordings of primitive gods have been prepared, to be played from helicopters, thus frightening tribes." And the military intelligence 4th Psychological Operations Group during the Vietnam war invented what they termed the Mitralux, a 1,000 watt projector to beam images onto mountains and clouds.¹⁶

In 1992, in Reno, Nevada, I interviewed a young man who wishes to remain anonymous about a particularly intriguing incident of "missing time" that happened to him in 1989. The man and a friend were driving through the mountains near Moriarty, New Mexico when they suddenly "woke up" and realized that the mountains were behind them. By his estimate based on distance travelled, he and his friend could not account for one-and-one-half hours of travel. The most startling portion of the experience was still to come when, about fifteen minutes later, they drove into the little town of Santa Rosa. As they entered the town another car drove in front of them, pulling out onto the highway. This was a brand new black sedan, with tinted windows and government plates. Behind the apparent government vehicle was a large, tandem axle trailer carrying what appeared to be an approximately twenty-foot-diameter, six-foot-

tall silver “flying saucer,” held down by nylon straps. My informant had no idea what to make of the saucer on the trailer, and was deeply distressed about the experience of missing time. He had specifically agreed to the interview with me so that I might explain to him what had been going on.¹⁷

It is perfectly logical that to cover up covert government experimentation and brainwashing that certain “ufological” details be injected into the victim’s experience, either by hypnosis or by counterfeiting of the event through the use of costumes, props, special effects, and drugs. This provides utter deniability for the agency doing the experimentation, and throws any investigation completely off the trail.

But why would big, grown-up men dress in black to silence UFO witnesses? If intelligence agencies monitored the communications of UFO buffs they certainly would have noted the lore of the MIBs (perhaps fostered at least in part by their own operations with Fugos, Maury Island, and Albert K. Bender), and would have realized this was a ripe opportunity for terminately handling the UFO crazies — who may have observed secret testing or unwittingly stumbled into a Top Secret area.

Are the Men in Black members of the CIA or some other intelligence agency? In some instances, that seems to be the probable case. Self-admitted government collaborator William Moore has even pointed to the specific agency responsible for the MIBs: “Air Force Special Activities Center (AFSAC), non-electronic intelligence gathering, in particular the 1127th Field Activities Group, composed of shady and sometimes criminal characters.”

Who am I to gainsay him?

NOTES:

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17. Anonymous. Interview conducted by Jim Keith, August 4, 1992

9

Indrid Cold

At 7 p.m. on a night in November 1966, appliance salesman Woodrow Derenberger had a close encounter that changed his life. While driving home to Mineralwells from Ohio, and not far from the vicinity of the famous Mothman encounters that were to take place soon after, he saw a charcoal-grey object descending that was shaped like "an old-fashioned kerosene lamp chimney, flaring at both ends, narrowing down to a small neck and then enlarging in a great bulge in the center." The object landed on the highway in front of Derenberger's car, causing him to brake, and the man watched as a five-foot ten-inch tall man with dark complexion, Oriental eyes, and dark clothing exited the craft and walked toward him. The man crossed his arms, hands underneath his armpits, possibly to hide his hands. A telepathic voice asked for the window of the car to be rolled down. Grinning at Derenberger the man conversed with him through telepathy. He said his name was "Cold" and that he was from "a country much less powerful" than the United States. He questioned Derenberger briefly about his background and about nearby Parkersburg, and then returned to the UFO, which took off. According to John Keel, two other men reported "identical incidents" to the Parkersburg, West Virginia police, but did not want notoriety and were unwilling to provide their names. Mrs. Frank Huggins and her two children also reported that she had watched the object flying over the highway shortly after Derenberger watched it depart. Other witnesses confirmed that they had seen a man conversing with another in a parked car in the spot where

Derenberger said he had spoken with Cold. Derenberger provided the story of his encounter to the local media and soon became a celebrity, with hordes of people gathering at his farm, hoping to see a flying saucer. He also began to receive telephone calls threatening him if he didn't keep quiet, as well as calls consisting of electronic noise and beeps.

On November 4, Derenberger was driving with a fellow worker outside Parkersburg when he felt a tingling in his forehead. Derenberger experienced a rush of telepathic communication from Cold. Cold described his idyllic planet of Lanulos, "in the galaxy of Ganymede," a planet very like Earth where the life expectancy was 125-175 earth years. After the transmission, Derenberger nearly passed out from the withdrawal of Cold's energies.

Two weeks after Cold's communications, two men went door-to-door in Mineralwells, selling wares varying from bibles to hardware, and at one door proclaiming themselves to be Mormon missionaries. The last job description may have been factual, as it is reported that the CIA recruits a large percentage of its personnel from Mormon collegiates. One of the men was tall, blond, and Scandinavian-appearing, while his partner was short, with pointed features and a dark olive complexion. They didn't do much selling or religious proselytizing, but were instead very interested in all the background information they could obtain on Woodrow Derenberger.

Soon after, a black Volkswagen parked in front of Derenberger's farmhouse, and Cold, dressed in a black suit, got out and spoke with the man. Cold gave Derenberger a vial of medicine for his stomach problems, and after he took the medicine, the ailment was reported to have been instantly cured.

According to Derenberger, "Indrid Cold" (the spaceman had now confided his first name) and his associates visited his farm frequently after the initial contact, and many witnesses in the area did describe UFOs in the vicinity, some of them hovering over Derenberger's house. A local psychiatrist ran Derenberger through a battery of tests and confirmed Derenberger's sanity. He further confirmed Derenberger's experience

when he, the psychiatrist, began to receive telepathic messages from the extraterrestrials! Not that his cosmic contact did him much good. The good doctor's career came to an abrupt halt due to the scandal that was created, and he was forced to leave West Virginia.

Derenberger later claimed that he had been taken to Indrid Cold's planet Lanulos "in the galaxy of Ganymede." Derenberger's wife, and cousins Darla Sartor and Jim Hacket also claimed that they had met Cold and other Lanulosans. His wife felt that they were evil, and expressed fears that they were infiltrating the human race in large numbers.

Jim Hacket and Darla Sartor were "skywatching" at a place called Bogle Ridge when they saw a group of colorful UFOs descend nearby. Moments later there was a bright flash and Hacket felt his face tingling. Then Hacket heard voices, which Darla Sartor did not, and a man came up to the car and rapped on the window. He held a red light on them and telepathically asked them to exit the car.

The man asked if Sartor were Hacket's wife, and he replied that they were cousins. After telling Sartor to stay in the car, the man led Hacket into the darkness. When Hacket returned, his shoes, socks, and watch were missing. He said the man had taken them.

Visiting the same spot with Woodrow Derenberger the next day, the group met three Lanulosans: Indrid Cold, Karl Ardo, and Demo Hassan. The spacemen explained to Hacket that he had run into "humanoids" who were "no-good thieves." They promised to track them down and bring the items back. The next morning Hacket's shoes, socks, and watch were found in a paper sack on his front porch.

Derenberger wrote an account of his contacts with extraterrestrials, titled *Visitors from Lanulos*, but because of a lack of interest among publishers, he self-published it. In the book Derenberger stated,

"As I write this book, I keep getting phone calls warning me to stop. They have even called my wife at her place of employ-

ment, telling her to stop me or they will. These people have also called my friends making the same threat.

"I have no way of knowing who these people are, yet they are calling too often to be crank calls. Several times I have written material that has disappeared from my home. When I leave home for any reason, I always lock all doors and windows, yet several times when we returned home, we found our home had been ransacked, drawers pulled out, papers strewn all over the floor, and valuable tapes missing, and my tape recorder broken... I have mailed letters, dropped personally by me in the Post Office letter box, that have failed to reach their destination."

Derenberger was also visited by men who told him to forget everything about his contact with the beings from Lanulos. They were short, stocky, with olive complexions, and dressed in black. Derenberger believed at the time that they were from the terrestrial Mafia.

In March 1967 Derenberger proclaimed that he had been taken aboard a spacecraft and flown to Brazil and back. Later in the same year, he was flown to Lanulos, which proved to be something like an idyllic nudist colony in outer space.

Derenberger made frequent personal appearances on radio and television, and in 1968, while being interviewed on a Washington, D.C. radio station, received a call from another man who claimed he had been to Lanulos. The caller was able to provide unpublished details about the Lanulosans that Derenberger confirmed, but did not want further publicity or to reveal his identity. His call, however, was traced, and Harold Salkin, Derenberger's manager, contacted the man.

The caller was Thomas Monteleone, a 21-year-old psychology major at the University of Maryland. In an interview a week later with Salkin and Derenberger, Monteleone described how he had been driving on Interstate 70 outside of Washington, D.C. at 1:15 a.m. on December 10, 1967, when an eggshell-white UFO had landed, blocking his path. Two nearly human occupants stood near the ship, and one approached him, smiling. The stranger, dressed in light blue coveralls and thick-soled

boots, was suntanned and had bulging eyes. Never diminishing his grin, he introduced himself as Vadig and spoke with Monteleone for a few minutes, asking mundane questions. He signed off with, "I'll see in you time," and then returned to the craft and it took off.

Vadig, dressed in a business suit, visited Monteleone two months later at a restaurant where he was a waiter. Vadig wore a business suit and a black outer coat. The extraterrestrial left after a short confab, saying, "I'll see you in time."

The following weekend Vadig picked up Monteleone, driving a large black car, "a very old Buick," that "smelled brand new." He drove him to a farm in Maryland, where they boarded a UFO, apparently the same one he had observed earlier. Next stop, four hours later, was the planet Lanulos. Monteleone travelled through a large city where no one wore clothes. "There were some real lookers there, too," he added with a wink. After his return to Earth, Monteleone was visited by Vadig a week later, then never saw the Lanulosans again.

According to John Keel, "Monteleone managed to carve two dubious pseudo-careers from it all. First, he spent years adding to and embellishing his story to delighted audiences and UFO believers, discovering, as so many other contactee claimants had discovered, that the wilder he made the story the more they believed him. Since he was an aspiring writer who experienced great difficulty in getting published, he eventually did a flip-flop and wrote confessions admitting he had never been to the outer space nudist colony that got him into *Omni* and the sci-fi magazines. Eventually he even wrote a play about his trials and tribulations with the true believers. He also became the unwitting subject of a bogus article in *Fate* magazine, concocted by a wandering weirdo who posed variously as an animal mutilation expert, CIA employee and UFO contactee, using a multitude of strange pseudonyms. (Such pathological behavior is sadly common in the UFO field.) Monteleone went on to become a prison psychologist and tried, without much success, to become a writer of science fiction stories. His tale of bug-eyed men, rides in flying saucers, and visits to nonexistent planets have now

become part of the lore despite my subtle inclusion of Tom in this book [*The Mothman Prophecies*] with the assorted foreign fakers. Some people just want to believe that there are nude space people out there somewhere.”¹

Keel was a bit premature in his assessment of one of Monteleone’s “dubious pseudo-careers.” Monteleone went on to become a relatively popular science fiction and horror author, not all that surprising, given that Keel attributes the entirety of Monteleone’s extraterrestrial adventure to his interest in sci-fi:

“He made up the whole story, about going where everyone was naked, and every detail of the story was from a science fiction book that was sitting right on the table when we were talking. He had a house full of science fiction books.”

So how should the Derenberger outer space extravaganza be understood? It is possible that Derenberger was the victim of another elaborate simulation of an alien encounter — there were, after all, numerous witnesses to strange occurrences in his vicinity. It may be speculated that the otherworldly drama was performed with props, hallucinogenic drugs, electronic displays, and other special effects. Telepathic broadcasts could have been simulated by extremely low frequency broadcasting, a technique verifiably having been tested by the CIA and others. That is one possibility.

It is interesting that Thomas Monteleone, after his contact with Derenberger, became a prison psychologist. Is it possible that he was privy to what was going on behind the scenes?

John Keel deserves the last word on Derenberger. In an interview with me he stated:

“He was a complicated case. A former preacher who spoke in tongues...and he used to make up stories to tell his wife where he was over the weekend. And he made up a lot of these stories about going to Lanulos. If you read his book — it was a subsidized book, someone paid to have it published — but in the book he was very careful not to go into all of these crappy stories he was telling his wife and the press. Eventually he left his wife...and it’s a long, involved story. A lot of his stuff he made up.

“Derenberger came up with some interesting MIB-type experiences, when he didn’t know anything about any of this. Derenberger had some strange experiences with men who came into where he was working, and so on.”

I queried Keel about whether he thought Derenberger’s experience were a combination of actual paranormal events and the spinning of yarns. His response:

“Well, that’s true of all the contactees. In fact Gray [Barker] and I used to have conversations about it: what really happened with the contactees once they got a little attention, they started making up stories. The same thing happens in spiritualism, where people have unusual spiritualistic experiences, and start making up stories, and this is a well-known thing, it’s been discussed in many books.”²

NOTES:

1. Keel, John A. *The Mothman Prophecies*, IllumiNet Press, Avondale Estates, Georgia, 1991
2. Keel, John A. Interview conducted by Jim Keith, August 23, 1996

MIBs in a Test Tube

At the same time that a country-wide UFO flap was in progress, commencing at about the same time as the Derenberger encounters, an area of West Virginia centered around the town of Point Pleasant experienced for over a year an epidemic of unnatural — or perhaps just uncommon — occurrences. These incidents were chronicled by John Keel in *The Mothman Prophecies*, published in 1975.

Although I am focusing in this chapter on the Men in Black encounters recorded during this period, these incidents occurred in the context of sightings of every sort of flying saucer known to humanity, as well as huge birds, winged humanoid creatures, a wide range of poltergeist phenomena, and cattle mutilations.

— On November 2, 1966 two men were driving home to Point Pleasant. Near Parkersburg, West Virginia, they watched as a dark, cylindrical UFO parked itself in front of them. A man dressed in a black coat emerged from the craft and walked toward them. He kept his hands folded under his armpits so they could not be seen. He grinned broadly at them and spoke to the men through the window of their car. The UFO-naut queried them about who they were, where they hailed from, where they were headed, and also asked the time, as many MIBs are apt to do. Then he went back to the UFO, and it took off.

After the encounter, the men were approached by “a scientist,” who told them that they should forget the incident.

— Also in November, a professional woman in Gallipolis, Ohio, near the West Virginia Mothman haunts, was walking out of her office building when she saw what appeared to be a bright

camera flash. She then saw a large, noiseless, cylindrical object that had landed in a parking lot only twenty feet from her. According to the woman, "It just drifted down and stopped."

Two men climbed out of the UFO. They were normal-sized, but had dark complexions, as if they were heavily tanned. They had pointed noses, pointed chins, and high cheekbones, and wore coverall-like uniforms. Questioning the woman about her life, in high-pitched, singsong voices they asked, "What is your time?" three or four times. They walked back to their craft and took off.

The woman later saw the same men, dressed in normal Earth clothing, walking down the street in Gallipolis. They nodded when they saw her.

Incidents of cattle mutilation had taken place on the woman's farm in 1963-64. She had seen some of the men involved, and they were tall, and wore white coveralls. Her home had burned down during this period, and another home had been built. One night in her new home she felt overpowering heat radiating through her bedroom, and at the same time heard the kitchen door open. As she lay in bed, unable to move, she saw a tall figure walk through the kitchen and leave through a locked door on the other side of the room. During the same time period poltergeist-style phenomena took place, with she and her children hearing footsteps and heavy clanging on the roof.

The woman's teenaged son confirmed what she had told investigator John Keel. The boy also described a large UFO they had watched as it hovered above nearby trees on their farm, as well as telephone problems including beeping noises and "electronic music." The electronic sounds heard on the telephone are a significant thread throughout the period of the Mothman incidents, providing an important clue as to the nature of these events.

— In early January, 1967 Mrs. Mary Hyre, a reporter for the Point Pleasant newspaper, was visited by the first of several strange visitors. The man was tiny, about four feet six inches tall, and wore his black hair in a bowl haircut. Although it was freezing outside, he dressed in shirt sleeves. He wore thick

glasses and shoes that seemed odd because of the thickness of their soles. Thick shoe soles are a recurring detail in many MIB encounters. Hyre was scared by the man's weird, hypnotic stare. Picking up a ballpoint pen, he examined it like he had never seen one before. This detail is reminiscent of the earlier MIB incident in which the man was unfamiliar with how to eat Jello, and seems as if it is a case of acting to establish weirdness. When Hyre told him that he could have the ballpoint, he let out a cackling laugh and ran out into the night.

Hyre's phone would soon be ringing at all hours, sometimes with only electronic noise and beeping sounds when she picked up the receiver.

In spring 1967 a UFO flew over Mary Hyre's backyard, sweeping the yard with a searchlight. Later she would meet the strange man again, but this time he was clad in khaki (although still wearing the familiar thick-soled shoes). Hyre was walking in Point Pleasant when she saw the man approaching. When he noticed her he looked alarmed, and ran away to leap into a black car driven by a large man.

Three days later, on May 8, Hyre arrived home at 11:30 p.m. As she opened her front door a large black car squealed to a stop outside. A man got out of the car, raised a camera, and took her picture.

"His flash gun was very bright," she later stated. "It blinded me momentarily. While I was standing there rubbing my eyes he got back into his car and it drove off. I couldn't see if there was anyone else in the car." The flash gun is another recurring MIB detail, which will be examined later in this text.

On September 30 Hyre was walking down Main Street in Point Pleasant when she was slowly followed by a black Cadillac driven by "a very large man." She got into her own car and, "I was heading out to Route 62 when I saw it again. It headed straight for me. I pulled over as far as I could and it almost ran right into me. It was the same car... but now there were three men in it... What do you suppose they were trying to prove?" Mary Hyre was later confronted at the newspaper offices by two men who, according to her, were almost twins. They were short

and wore black overcoats, and had dark complexions, looking somewhat Oriental to Hyre. "We hear there's been a lot of flying saucer activity around here," one commented. Hyre said that there had been, and offered the man a file of clippings to look at, which he merely glanced at and handed back. "Has anyone told you not to publish these reports?" the man asked, and Hyre replied in the negative.

Hyre recalls, "He continued to probe. "What would you do if someone did order you to stop writing about flying saucers?" Hyre said she would summarily direct them to hell. She went back to her work for a moment, and when she glanced up again, the men were gone.

That same day, another short Oriental-looking man with unruly hair and wearing a black suit arrived at the newspaper office, driving a white station wagon. Possessing an undefinable accent and freakishly long fingers, he also visited Mary Hyre. He announced that his name was "Jack Brown," and that he was a UFO researcher.

"What — would — what would you do — if someone ordered — ordered you to stop? To stop printing UFO stories?" the man stammered. Hyre asked if he was with the two Oriental-looking men who had earlier visited the office, and Brown replied that he was not, but that he was a friend of UFO researcher Gray Barker. Hyre persisted, wondering if the man knew John Keel. "I — I used to think — think the world of K-K-Keel. Then a few minutes ago I bought a — a magazine. He says he's seen UFOs himself. He's — he's a liar."

That night Jack Brown visited local resident Connie Carpenter, and later arrived at Parke and Mabel McDaniel's home in Point Pleasant. Mabel had earlier seen a strange flying man winging his way through the skies over Point Pleasant. Staying at the McDaniel home were their daughter Linda and her husband Roger Scarberry — who had earlier also had a terrifying encounter with Mothman. The MIB told the McDaniels and the Scarberrys that he was from Cambridge, Ohio, but when questioned did not seem to know anything about the area. Brown said that he was a friend of Mary Hyre, Gray Barker, and John

Keel, and carried a bulky tape recorder into the McDaniel home. The man shortly proved that he did not know how to operate the recorder, but also that he wasn't really interested in UFOs or anything relating to the Mothman incidents. Naturally, he asked the McDaniels how they thought Mary Hyre would react if asked to discontinue reporting on UFOs. "They [UFOs] are not hostile," Jack Brown grumbled repeatedly during his visits to witnesses.

— On the morning of January 19, 1967, Tad Jones, an appliance store owner in Cross Lanes, West Virginia, encountered a large spherical metal UFO as he drove along Interstate 64. It hovered about four feet off the ground, and he watched it for two minutes before it took off. "It was a large metal sphere," Jones said. "Since it was broad daylight I got a very good look at it. It was about twenty feet in diameter and was the color of dull aluminum. There were four legs attached to it with caster-like wheels on the bottom of each one. And there was a small window about nine inches in diameter on the side facing me. But I couldn't see anything inside the sphere. On the underside there was something like a propeller. It was idling when I first drove up, then it started spinning faster and the whole object began to rise upward. It disappeared into the sky and I drove on to my store."

After reporting the sighting to the police, the local news media got hold of the story. The next morning a note was slipped under Jones' door. It was written on notebook paper in block letters and said: "We know what you have seen and we know that you have talked. You'd better keep your mouth shut." A few days later another note arrived, again slipped under the door. It was written on a piece of cardboard that had been burned around the edges, and included another threat, with the addition: "...there want [sic] be another warning."

There is nothing to suggest that the messages were more than a human intervention, by government or incensed oddball, but perhaps I protest too much, given the volume of bizarre occurrences that were taking place in the area. It should be noted, however, that "Cross Lanes" have always been considered

mystically potent sites, and hang-outs for varied forms of "ultra-terrestrials" and the odd zobop.

About a week after the sighting, Jones was driving along the same stretch of road where he had encountered the UFO. A man was standing below where the craft had hovered. Jones assumed the man was hitchhiking, and offered him a ride, but the man waved him on. The next morning the same man was standing in the same spot.

"He was very tanned," Jones said, "or his face was very flushed. He looked normal and was wearing a blue coat and a blue cap with a visor... something like a uniform, I guess. I noted he was holding a box in his hand. Some kind of instrument. It had a large dial on it, like a clock, and a wire ran from it to his other hand."

— In April 1967 a man was driving near the Chief Cornstalk Hunting Grounds when a ten-foot-wide black form arose from the woods and flew over his car. He accelerated the car but the wraith flew above until it turned away toward the river.

Later, in October, the man came home from work to find a prowler in his apartment.

"When I opened the door I saw this man standing in my living room," he said. "I think he dressed all in black. I couldn't see his face, but he was about five feet nine. I started to fumble for the light switch when he took my picture. There was a big flash of light, so bright I couldn't see a thing. While I was rubbing my eyes the burglar darted past me and went out the open door. I guess I arrived just in time because nothing was missing."

Again, the "phantom flashers."

— According to John Keel, "In October 1967 three men were driving along Route 2 in West Virginia when they saw a large, caped man walking beside the road. They stopped and looked back and he was gone. There were open fields on both sides of the road."

— In Belpre, Ohio, sixty miles from Point Pleasant, a family man had seen a UFO hovering near a chemical plant. Attempting to signal the UFO, he flashed the car's spotlight at the object.

The electrical system in his car immediately burned out.

Later he began to receive the familiar beeping calls and “metallic voices” on his telephone, telling him to attend meetings that he never went to. Poltergeist activity started to happen in his home, while his wife noticed unusual people frequenting their neighborhood. In August, as he walked down the Main Street in Parkersburg two black-clothed “Oriental-looking” men grinned broadly at him. The man observed that the MIBs had trouble walking, and seemed confused or drunk.

— Mr. and Mrs. James Lilly, who lived near the Mothman sighting area of Point Pleasant, began hearing strange noises in their house in the fall of 1966. They heard cabinet doors slamming, and the sound of a baby crying. Mrs. Lilly said, “It sounded so plain that I looked around the house even though I knew there was no baby here. It seemed to come from the living room... only a few feet away from me.” The family began observing UFOs around their home in March 1967. According to Mrs. Lilly, “We’ve seen all kinds of things. Blue lights, green ones, red ones, things that change color. Some of them have been so low that we thought we could see diamond-shaped windows in them. And none of them make any noise at all.” Cars driving in the vicinity often stalled without reason. At the same time as the UFO sightings, daughter-in-law Mrs. Doris Lilly, who lived in Point Pleasant, began to receive curious phone calls. Every evening at about 5:00 p.m. the phone would ring. When answered, a metallic voice spoke in a rapid, guttural foreign language. The calls were only made when Mrs. Lilly was alone.

Also in March 1967, the Lilly’s sixteen-year-old daughter Linda woke up one night to see a man in a checkered shirt standing over her bed. “It was a man,” she said, “A big man. Very broad. I couldn’t see his face very well but I could see that he was grinning at me...” The teenager screamed, and then, “He walked around the bed and stood right over me. I screamed again and hid under the covers. When I looked up again, he was gone.”

— Amid dozens of other sightings of the weird Mothman

and his relatives in West Virginia and nearby areas, 18-year-old Connie Carpenter encountered the creature as she was driving home from church on November 27, 1967. Initially she thought it was a man dressed in grey until the Mothman unfolded ten-foot wings and flew toward her car, then abruptly veered away and vanished. After seeing the creature, Ms. Carpenter suffered conjunctivitis, her eyes almost swollen shut. Her travails would continue.

Connie Carpenter also encountered the omnipresent "Jack Brown," who drove up to her house door in New Haven, West Virginia in a large white car with a rattling muffler. Brown told Ms. Carpenter that he was a friend of Mary Hyre and asked questions about the relationship of Hyre and John Keel.

"What do you think — if — what would Mary Hyre do — if someone told her to stop writing about UFOs?" he asked.

Carpenter replied, "She'd probably tell them to drop dead."

After a rambling, somewhat unintelligible conversation with Brown, he departed and drove off into the night.

On February 22, 1968, Ms. Carpenter was walking to school when a black 1949 Buick pulled up beside her. The driver of the car, a young, well-dressed, clean-cut man in his middle twenties, opened the door and beckoned to her. Thinking that the man wanted directions, Ms. Carpenter approached the car. The driver reached out and grabbed her arm, ordering her to get in the car. She struggled and broke away, then ran back to her house. The following day there was a knock on her door. A pencilled note was slipped under the door that read, "Be careful girl. I can get you yet."

Connie Carpenter and her husband had moved to New Haven, hoping for a better neighborhood, but the household was soon experiencing poltergeist phenomena of various sorts. Connie also awoke in the middle of the night on March 22 to hear loud beeping coming from directly outside her window.

— Another witness of Mothman, Mrs. Marcella Bennett, was driving with her young daughter on a rural road outside Point Pleasant. She realized that a red Ford Galaxie was following her, driven by a man wearing a bushy fright wig. She slowed

down, hoping that the car would pass, but instead the driver tried to force her off the road. She put on the accelerator, but the car swerved in front of her and disappeared around a bend. When she turned the corner, she saw that the Ford was parked blocking the road. She speeded up the car and the driver pulled his vehicle out of the way to avoid being hit.

— During the period of the Mothman encounters, black limousines prowled the Point Pleasant area, stopping at rural homes. Deeply tanned men proclaimed themselves to be “census takers” and showed an inordinate interest in the children of the households.

People in the rural areas also reported seeing mysterious unmarked panel trucks which parked in remote locations for hours, and were rumored to be Air Force. Men in coveralls worked on telephone and powerlines.

A thirty-ish blond woman visited people in Ohio and West Virginia, telling people that she was John Keel’s secretary, and filling out lengthy forms with information about health, income, family background, the types of cars the people owned, along with questions about UFO and Mothman sightings. Keel, naturally, did not have a secretary. During his investigation of the Mothman flap, Keel came to believe that, “Perhaps an investigation was already underway. As I wandered around Main Street in early April I noticed a surprising number of strangers who just didn’t seem to fit in. They had the indelible look of federal officers... conservative ties, square clothes, recent haircuts. There must have been fifteen or twenty of them. I saw them in the local restaurants and drugstores, everywhere...”

“One night Roger Scarberry, Steve Mallette, and myself were driving around the TNT area [where there had been many UFO and Mothman sightings] when we came upon a large black Cadillac parked in the shadows. I slammed on the brakes, got out of our car, and walked over to the other vehicle. A well-dressed, distinguished man was sitting behind the wheel holding a microphone in his hand. I tried to engage him in conversation but he would only grunt. Obviously he wanted to be left alone. I never saw him again.”

I do not rule out that the Mothman flap may have begun and continued with actual paranormal encounters. But, as Keel has indicated, there was something else going on in Point Pleasant at the time. I believe that for a year the town of Point Pleasant and surrounding areas served as a "test tube" for a psychological war against the populace, probably conducted by government agents dressed in black, using drugs, flash guns, electronic telephone harassment, electronic visual effects, and ultra-light aircraft simulating both UFOs and giant birds. Again, actual paranormal occurrences may have taken place, but there is much evidence to suggest that these events were amplified in effect and perhaps counterfeited by the government, and perhaps others.¹

The overall purpose of these incidents might have been as follows:

A. To see how well "urban legends" could be created, and to what extent the populace would go along with them. The information obtained in this fashion might be very valuable particularly if an American "first strike" with flying saucer-style attack aircraft were launched against the Soviets amidst the confusion and communication breakdown of UFO hysteria.

B. To assess the possibility of the Soviets creating widespread confusion and communications systems breakdown by faking a flying saucer invasion.

C. To confuse the source of testing of advanced secret American aerial craft possibly stationed nearby. And,

D. To test out varied forms of technology for psychological control.

Important corroboration for the Mothman incidents as a military psy-ops program are the flash guns used by the MIBa to disable witnesses. Keel devotes an entire chapter of *The Mothman Prophecies* to this frequent occurrence. The source of the flashes may not be so mysterious. In 1979 *The Guardian* reported that CIA researchers "proposed subjecting monkeys to blinding flashes of light in an attempt to develop a non-lethal weapon to stun enemy agents. An undated, barely legible memo suggested the development of a 'flash blindness incapacitation'

device to create 'disorientation, confusion, and impaired vision'. The note proposed 'sophisticated primate studies' to discover 'the functional damage threshold' and 'measure of performance decrease' caused by the blindness device." Might Point Pleasant have been the location of one of these primate studies?³ Keel, when queried, has repeatedly denied that the government was the source of the Mothman flap incidents... and yet he seems to affirm the possibility as well:

"They would only do it because they had nothing else to do. We're talking about government agents. During a period when there was nothing going on, they might do that just for the hell of it. What they used to do, they would pick out some poor schnook, like a pharmacist, and trail him for a week, and they would tap his phone, and they would practice all this crap. And he, of course, would get very alarmed, and being totally innocent, he would say, 'why the hell are they after me?' But, if they really want to do something, they can psych anyone out in a hurry. They've done this on different occasions, and it's bad publicity for them."⁴

— During the period of the Mothman encounters, in Mount Misery, Long Island, a woman who John Keel refers to as "Jane" began a series of encounters that provide a culmination to this extraordinary period.

In the spring of 1967 UFOs were frequently seen near Mount Misery. Jane and her boyfriend Richard were two of many who drove there to watch for UFOs — and in early May on a backroad, they had their wished-for encounter.

Richard, driving the car, suddenly felt unwell and stopped the car. Then he went unconscious, slumping over the wheel. A brilliant beam of light shot out of the woods, "like a floodlight," according to Jane. She felt unable to move, and the next thing either of them remember is driving along Old Country Road, at the base of Mount Misery. Neither of them had the slightest idea of what had taken place in the interim.

A few days later, on May 17, Jane received a phone call in a curious, metallic voice that said, "Listen carefully, I cannot hear you." The voice told her to go to a nearby public library

and to find a particular book on American Indian history. The following day, she followed instructions.

At 10:30 A.M. Jane found the library deserted, except for the librarian, who was "dressed in an old-fashioned suit like something out of the 1940s, with a long skirt, broad shoulders, and flat old-looking shoes." She had a dark complexion, with black eyes and black hair, and spoke in broken English. Oddly, the book Jane was looking for was in the librarian's desk.

Jane had been told to read page 42, but when she did, she recalls, "You won't believe this, but the print became smaller and smaller, then larger and larger. It changed into a message and I can remember every word of it."

The message said:

"Good morning friend. You have been selected for many reasons. One is that you are advanced in autosuggestion. Through this science we will make contact. I have messages concerning Earth and its people. The time is set. Fear not... I am a friend. For reasons best known to ourselves you must make your contacts known to one reliable person. To break this code is to break contact. Proof shall be given. Notes must be kept of the suggestion state. Be in peace. [signed] A Pal."

Jane said, "The print became very small again, and then the normal text reappeared." After she left the library, Jane was ill for several days.

Jane was referred to John Keel, who "suspected that Jane had been programmed for a set of special experiences and I kept in constant touch with her in the months which followed, maintaining an extensive record of her experiences."

By early June, Jane was seeing the "librarian" everywhere she went. In a department store, the woman tried to speak to Jane. Something seemed to be wrong her. "It was as if... she were dead." She laughed "like an emotionally disturbed person."

"Is there any A-U here?" the woman asked Jane, presumably inquiring about gold, or possibly just trying to be weird.

The following morning Jane got up at dawn for a walk, only to have the "librarian" step out of an alley and approach her.

"Peter is coming," she told Jane. "Why are you interested in our Mount? Peter is coming very soon."

Jane, a non-practicing Catholic, took the reference to "Peter" to be an End Times reference; the final pope, according to prediction, being named Peter.

As they conversed, a black, shiny, apparently brand-new Cadillac appeared on the scene, stopping next to the two. The driver had olive skin, wraparound sunglasses, and wore a grey suit. A grinning "Hawaiian" with Oriental eyes, also in a grey suit, stepped from the rear passenger section.

"Do you know who I am?" the man asked. "I am Apol. [pronounced Apple]."

He shook hands with Jane. His hands were icy cold. The Cadillac drove off, leaving the "librarian," Jane, and Apol. The trio walked toward the center of town.

Apol handed Jane a piece of old parchment with something wrapped in it, and told her, "Wear this always, so 'they' will know who you are."

Asking who 'they' were, Apol said, "They are the very good people."

Inside the parchment was a quarter-sized metal disk. Now in mid-town, Jane told the others that she was going to mail the disk to someone. She went into the post office and addressed and mailed the disk to Keel.

After she returned, Apol told her about her childhood, including facts that she believed no one could have known, and recommended she avoid iodine in her diet. For health reasons, Jane was already avoiding iodine.

The Cadillac returned and Apol and the "librarian" climbed in and drove off. "I felt very strange while I was talking to them," Jane told Keel. "I was woozy... like I was in a daze or something."

When Keel received the disk and parchment, he mailed them back to Jane. Opening the return package, she was upset to find that the disk had been bent and the paper had been torn into three pieces. The disk had also turned black and smelled like "rotten eggs."

According to Keel, "The implication was clear. Someone had the ability to intercept the U.S. mails and tamper with things in sealed envelopes!"

On June 12, Jane was visited at her house by Apol and his cohorts. They asked for water to take pills. They also gave Jane three of the same pills, telling her to take one, and to take another one in two days. The other pill was provided so that she could have it analyzed to prove that it would not harm her.

Why she would have taken the first pill, I don't know, but Jane did. She got a terrible headache, her eyes became blood-shot, and the vision in one eye worsened and seemed to take on a cast. On analysis, the pills turned out to be sulfa, a common prescription medicine.

Two days later, again for no reason that I can fathom, Jane took another pill. Her phone soon rang, and a man with a Brooklyn accent told her he was Col. John Dalton of the Air Force. He said he wanted to talk about "Mitchell Field," without clarifying what or whom that might be. He told Jane that he wanted to speak with her, and asked her to come to his office. After she asked where his office was, he decided it might be better to come to her house. The conversation ended without Jane providing the man with her address.

Still, Colonel Dalton showed up at 7:45 the following evening, accompanied by a young lieutenant. Dalton wore a black suit, had brown hair and eyes, and a "very pointed nose." The lieutenant had whitish blond hair "that looked dyed," and wore an Air Force uniform. At about the same time as this visit, two MIBs with apparently dyed white hair were visiting Mary Hyre in Point Pleasant, and tossing around the phrase "We'll see you in time," like Derenberger's Lanulosans.

The Colonel gave Jane a long, complicated form to sign, that asked questions about her personal, medical, and family history, and education. She declined to fill out the form, and the men left, driving away in a blue station wagon.

On June 19th, Apol provided Jane with a message to be conveyed to John Keel:

"Things will become more serious in the Middle East. The

pope will go there soon on a peace mission. He will be martyred there in a horrible way... knifed to death in a bloody manner. Then the Antichrist will rise up out of Israel." Later prophecies given to Jane would say that the pope would be attacked in a crowd at an airport on July 26, by an MIB with a black knife. The assassination would be preceded by a large earthquake. After the assassination there would be three days of blackness and power failures around the world. Apol also predicted a number of plane crashes that, Keel says, took place on schedule, although he does not provide information on specific incidents.

Desiring to delve deeper, John Keel hypnotized Jane only to find his control taken over. She began channelling Apol, who wanted to gossip about Robert Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe. Apol also warned that Kennedy was in grave danger. Throughout the hypnotic session the phone repeatedly rang, although when Keel picked it up, there was no one on the line.

Although a violent earthquake killed a thousand people on July 22, the pope was not assassinated on July 26 as predicted (although three years later, on November 27, 1970, a man in black priest's garb with a black knife would attempt to kill the pope at the Manila International Airport).

Apol had more predictions, however, which he generally doled out over the telephone. The dollar would be devalued — this did not take place until several years later. Red China would join the United Nations — it happened, but much later. Robert Kennedy should stay out of hotels — a warning that he did not heed, resulting in his murder by the somewhat Oriental-looking Sirhan Sirhan.

Apol also spoke of a disaster on the Ohio River that would kill many people. On November 3, 1967 Keel wrote to Mary Hyre:

"I have reason to suspect there may soon be a disaster in the Point Pleasant area which will not be related to the UFO mystery. A plant along the river may either blow up or burn down. Possibly the navy installation in Pt. Pleasant will be the center of such a disaster. A lot of people may be hurt... Don't even hint to anybody anything about this."

December 15 was predicted as the day when the plant disaster would take place. Instead, the seven-hundred-foot Silver Bridge at Point Pleasant collapsed on that day, killing 46 confirmed persons. Significantly, two days prior to the collapse, two unidentified men were seen climbing on the side of the bridge.

Although in print John Keel has remained mum about the most sinister of possibilities regarding the Silver Bridge disaster, he stated the following to me in a 1996 interview:

“First of all, FBI men stand out like a sore thumb. They dress the same way, they wear neckties, they wear low cut shoes, these are not the kind of guys you see in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, on the street. They suddenly turned up just before the bridge went down.”

Was Keel hinting that FBI men may have been responsible for the Silver Bridge disaster?⁵

NOTES:

1. Keel, John A. *The Mothman Prophecies*, IllumiNet Press, Avondale Estates, Georgia, 1991; Keel, John A. *The Complete Guide to Mysterious Beings*, Doubleday, New York, 1994
2. Keel, John A. “Winged Cats, Mothmen and Unidentified Flying Objects,” *Popular Alienation*, edited by Kenn Thomas, IllumiNet Press, Lilburn, Georgia, 1996; Keel. *The Mothman Prophecies*
3. The Guardian, March 19, 1979
4. Keel, John A. Interview conducted by Jim Keith, August 23, 1996
5. Ibid; Keel. *The Mothman Prophecies*

Green Yarn

This personal experience was provided to me in correspondence by the Australian researcher of the paranormal, Eric Panther. Although it does not dramatize many of the classic MIB aspects, it provides perspective on the phenomenon, and ammunition for the view that the government may be involved in the staging of UFO incidents. Panther's account follows:

In June of 1991 I went to California to take part in an internal company training exercise. The company is located in the San Jose area, and the training was offsite somewhere near Sunnyvale. On the first morning, I took a seat, not knowing many of the others. I ended up with the only spare seat in the room next to me. A man who came in late took the seat, and then we were asked to pair off, and so it was that Mr. EMF, as I shall call him, and I came to meet. We were to spend five minutes telling each other about ourselves. He and I could not have been more different, which was good. Here we were working for the same company, on other sides of the world, making a connection we would never otherwise have made. I think I could best describe him as a mountain man. Big guy, tall, wide. Drives an F-100. Wears a cap. To my Australian eyes an instantly recognisable American type. Outdoors guy. Dogs, guns, Coors. I liked him, but as I say, we're very different.

During that week we became friends. He drove me back and forth to the office during breaks. Now, the route happens to go past Ames Research Base (a large NASA facility near San Jose),

on the Highway 101 and 237 intersections, if I remember right. One day, I made a reference to the Mars pyramids and UFOs. I like to see people's reactions and find out where they stand. EMF made a reply like he knew what I was talking about. He invited me to his place for a barbecue the next afternoon.

The next day I took my hired car for the two-hour drive into the Santa Cruz mountains. EMF lives on a 300-acre property which is mostly redwood forest. It was purchased by his great grandfather in 1867. Now EMF, his wife, and newborn daughter live in the cabin house, with horses, dogs; your typical mountain man set-up, except this guy is in a senior engineering role with a leading Silicon Valley high technology company during his working day.

The place is beautiful, and as we sat on the balcony drinking cans of cold beer in the sun, talk turned to UFOs. Actually, I think I asked if they'd ever seen one up there, because quite honestly the thought did occur to me driving up through those windy mountain roads that this would be likely flying saucer country. Anything could happen there, and 50 yards down around the next bend, you wouldn't know, it was so folded and rugged and hilly. And then the story just started tumbling out, that there were multiple landing sites around the house, that they had all witnessed, not only clear sightings of the saucers, but much more as was to come out over the next 18 months.

That afternoon I saw plentiful hard evidence, and plenty of weird things which did not fit the usual, expected, public domain version of what UFO events should be like. But first, a summary of what this case represents and includes: hard evidence, a credible witness, clear indications of NASA/Naval Intelligence manipulation. In short, a nexus of critical components to the alien scenario. This is a classic case, obviously from my point of view because I got to see and touch and feel for myself, but also because it contains details that I have never seen revealed in published material (and I like to think I have read widely). I am left with the feeling of having been part of a scenario in which I was an unwitting actor.

First EMF showed me a redwood tree that had been snapped

off eight feet above the ground. The top of the freshly broken stump was blackened, burnt. "Lightning strike," I said. "Good," said EMF, "now where is the rest of the tree, all 300 feet of it?" There was no such tree. We were surrounded by virgin forest in every direction. EMF said: "This happened two weeks ago." He went on to show me clearings in the forest, both high above in the canopy, where branches had been broken off to form a large oval opening. Also on the ground, I saw a "hole" which went through a pile of fallen logs and extended two feet into the ground, as if some pile driver of huge strength had just slammed down from above. I also saw many small depressions made in the dusty ground, as if someone had taken a large egg and pushed it into the dust. EMF told me that the previous week these had appeared by the hundreds all around the house. Now they had almost all disappeared, though they could still be found. I had graphic independent confirmation of this when two 10-year-old boys, neighbours from up the road (there are other houses around), dropped in mid-afternoon. When they saw the cupmarks gone they were in amazement, telling me excitedly that they had been all over the yard the previous week.

I heard stories about the night of the saucer. Six people all saw it, a huge hexagonal craft flying low over the house. Next morning the two horses had a shaved patch under their chin. I heard the stories about the lights in the woods, which had started around 1987. The weird events. The green yarn, which is a topic I will come back to. Then the account of how eventually EMF decided he had to get therapy of some kind or else he was going nuts. This guy is regular, with no previous interest even vaguely in matters of weirdness, UFOs, etc. Drinks a little beer, chews tobacco, no drugs. So guess what happens? He gets hypnotised and out comes a full-blown alien abduction scenario, which leads to a fuller revelation of many such experiences, with lots and lots of detail taking place in his house, to and from the craft, in the craft, the examinations, etc. You know the usual story. The psychologist freaked out, never having encountered anything like it, and called NASA, in particular Mr. Richard H. of the Ames Research Laboratories. He is the NASA "pointman"

for UFO sightings. I've read him described as an "optical physiologist" who has investigated over 3,000 cases of UFO sightings by Air Force pilots. He pops up in a lot of indexes. Definitely One of Them.

That first afternoon, I remember later in the day sitting around the lounge room with various members of his extended family, aunts, uncles, father, brother, the whole scene like something out of the hillbillies but the topic of conversation was Roswell/Bluebook/Stealth technology/Streiber, etc. I was keen to get out before sundown. I did want to meet his wife and newborn daughter, however, who had been at a baby shower party all afternoon. Eventually they returned, and I met them, and said my farewells and headed off down the mountain, with a heady mix of emotion ranging from outright joy at the staggering scope of the revelations at first hand, to frankly, being scared shitless!

Over the next year or two, I saw EMF on a number of occasions and corresponded several times. I was also dealing with him on work matters day-to-day. Problems of privacy in communications were difficult (more on that later), but he did go on to tell me a lot of what was happening. His motives for sharing with me were partly because I seemed to him to have more of a matrix for understanding the UFO situation than most he had come across. He had a very close group of trusted friends who knew about what was happening, but obviously he kept it all very quiet from the work scene. The unique aspect to this is that EMF does not fit the victim mentality. He ain't taking it lying down, but has resolved to take the aliens on. That is, what he objects to is their invasion of his home and body without permission. And he reacts to this as he would any invader of his home.

One way he has been active is in obtaining videotape of the critters. He believes that their eyes are sensitive in the ultraviolet, and so reasons that they would not sense infrared. So, he set up an optical "trip wire" using infrared, and had it trigger a videocamera. Each morning his wife would replay the tape as she did the vacuuming. Most nights it would go off because of

a deer, or the wind or something, and the tape would just be of redwood trees lit up by infrared lights. One day he got a call at work: "Honey, I think you better come home." He had some 90 minutes of footage, perfectly clear, multiple entities over extended periods of time. Now, here's the thing: I have not seen the footage. What happened to the tape is a story in itself, which will come later. I believe he is certainly capable of rigging up the gear, and I think he was telling me the truth (Unless the ENTIRE thing from start to finish was some kind of massive "trick" or "con" played on me, which is a possibility I have not entirely discounted. They went to an awful lot of trouble to achieve nothing in particular, if it is).

Now it's time to tell the green yarn story. I think these details, as flaky and seemingly irrelevant as they at first might seem, hold a lot of clues for this case and the wider issue of alien abduction as mind control, in part at least involving human agencies.

Since the first lights and noise in the forest, EMF and his family have found clumps of green yarn lying 200-300 yards around the house. Some mornings they wake up and it is everywhere, as though someone has dumped bags and bags of it from the sky. Or often they'll come across clumps of it. I saw some on the ground on my visit. It looks like, well, I enclose some samples so you can see exactly. It is mysterious stuff. For example, the green yarn shows up at the homes and places of people who have had some connection with EMF. The first time EMF went to the psychologist, he said to EMF, "Oh, look what was on my front doorstep when I came to the office this morning," and held up a clump of the green yarn. A workmate of EMF who visited his place but who knows nothing of all this found some at his own house and casually mentioned it at work one day. Friends of mine at Napa [unconnected to EMF] found some at their house and told me the next time I saw them. They kept some to show me, but it wasn't where they remembered putting it. That's another thing: the stuff keeps disappearing. For example, when some NASA people called in to collect a sample EMF had for them, EMF went to get it and the sample

was gone! From inside his house! The sample in this case was a large quart jar filled to the brim with the stuff. EMF also attempted to mail me a piece, but it was not in the envelope which I received from him. He tried again, this time (he claimed to me, at least) using seven different envelopes posted from seven different San Francisco locations. Not one arrived in my postbox. [As an interjection, the samples that were mailed to me were received, but unexplainably disappeared within a few days - JK]

What is the yarn? The shaggy hat worn by the one type of the aliens is a camouflage headgear, just like the military use in jungle warfare. It consists of long bits of green woolen yarn secured to a skullcap. Not very well, it seems, for they keep coming out! When EMF goes to his backdoor at night and shines the torch around, all he sees are the green bushes...

It's time to talk about H., who got involved after the psychologist contacted NASA. He told EMF lots of stuff, e.g., that:

— There were 71 other people in the Santa Cruz mountains reporting similar experiences, and that EMF would get a chance to meet some of them (He had not, the last time I saw him).

— That to track all of the UFO activity, a "phased array radar" had been installed at great expense (four billion dollars). This facility is clearly visible from the 101 highway, south of San Jose, a square concrete structure perched on a peak on the Santa Cruz mountains to the west of the highway. It is also visible clearly from above, in planes flying south out of San Francisco.

— That there were various "fake" details embedded in Streiber's account of aliens, so as to weed out the true abductees reporting their experiences to the authorities (i.e., as distinct from the vast numbers who would be calling up the government to "pretend" they were being abducted.) One of the details was pronounced sunken cheeks which supposedly the real aliens have but Streiber's do not.

Well, H. was excited about the EMF case, and had teams of men in white overalls arrive in unmarked vans to set up all kinds of equipment. They did overflights and took aerial photography.

They took every conceivable measurement. They took away the green yarn to analyse (after the aborted first attempt above). When they got the results back, H. told EMF: "Oh, no problem. It turns out to be a duPont nylon yarn, manufactured in 1987." He quoted some batch number which I have somewhere. Anyway, EMF replied, "That's interesting. We first started finding it in 1984. H. looked at his partner, and they exchanged goofy smiles.

Of course, the yarn is not going to turn out to be made of some impossible extraterrestrial material. It's nylon; manmade. But it is on a hat being worn by an "alien." Believe me, the little guys exist, and aren't wearing suits. But they are wearing poorly made, low budget camouflage headgear. In other words, the naive view would have it that the little aliens should just turn invisible, or green or something, if they want to camouflage themselves. They certainly seem to have no problem performing other "magical" operations, such as causing EMF's guard dogs to sleep straight through intrusions, enabling EMF to levitate through the forest, etc. But they don't. They wear cheesy skullcaps to avoid being seen as they scuttle through the undergrowth. What's more, they are using ordinary standard military issue equipment.

For me, anyway, this is the hard evidence which goes to the heart of the matter: they are not "aliens." That is, they are from here, too. The true horror will come when the humans have to confront the fact that there is in some sense an identity between the aliens and us. That there is a blurred area between the two, a grey area you could say, in which it can be hard to say which is them and which is us. At the least there is an area of overlap of common purpose, and here is one such perfect example. These humble pieces of green yarn are proof that there is collusion between human military agencies and the so-called alien invaders. So earth-shattering, and yet, so flimsy, so banal. Green yarn.

I should say that EMF and I were both very wary, but ultimately trusting, of the other. For my part, it was all too real, too much, some kind of game, it had to be. From his, I was like,

too coincidental, too knowledgeable, too many freaky things happened in my presence. For example, one time after a meeting with EMF I drove back to my hotel, except I took a wrong turn, before I eventually found my way. Next day EMF cornered me and gave me the third degree: Why did I go down that street? It turns out he had tailed me, and I had gone down an unmarked back street entrance to Ames Research! I was just freaking by this stage, and so was he...

We were under some kind of surveillance. I cite:

— H. listed four books to EMF that he said he should read. These were the four books I had sent EMF the previous month as an instant UFO primer. So then I realised the mail was being intercepted.

— One night we were in a bar talking. Two guys came in the back door. EMF said, "They don't look right. Let's just quietly go elsewhere." We left and drove some five-ten kilometers to a Chinese restaurant. We settled into our table. The two guys arrived 15 minutes later, and took the table next to ours.

— EMF told H. about the video. H. insisted without any reservation that EMF hand it over to him. Finally, and reluctantly, EMF handed over the videotape. Here is the thing: the original was not taken on a videorecorder. EMF gave H. a copy and kept the original. This last sentence is of the gravest importance. On behalf of the U.S.A., H. thought he had obtained the original of clear, undeniable alien footage, enough to blow the whole coverup sky-high. The most valuable piece of film that could be imagined. Like Spielberg, except obviously unfakeable, the skinny necks, the giant watery heads.

H. has his sticky fingers in many hot pies. For example, the case of the Swiss contactee, Billy Meier. You know, the guy who has taken all of the UFO photos, etc., after contact with Pleiadian intelligences, etc. Well, Meier was given a piece of rock, which ended up at IBM labs for analysis, where they discovered it to consist of a layered arrangement unachievable by our current technology. Microphotographs were taken and have been published. Now, what happened to the sample? The story is recounted in a book on the Meier affair, but the

technician called someone down to the lab to share the excitement of the incredible discovery of the structure of the material. This took place at the IBM Vogel (?) labs. The person he called down who, for whatever reason, was working in the next lab was H. The lab technician had the sample in the pocket of his lab coat. H. walked in the door. The technician said, "Check this out," put his hand in his pocket, and the sample was missing. The account is in print.

H. also pops up in relation to Australia's most famous UFO case, that of Frederick Valentich. Valentich disappeared in 1978 in his Cessna en route to King Island. He was almost certainly taken by a UFO. Calmly, logically, undeniably. The transcript of the final minutes of his conversation with flight control was finally released after initially being withheld. The transcript is extraordinary enough, but they refused to release the actual tape. Guess who is in possession of the original tape, according to public domain records. H. Why he should end up with Victorian Air transcripts amazes me.

So, who is this guy? A disinformation officer. His role is to whisk away the public who should call in with alien info. The pointman.

He also warned EMF of having dealings with me, and actually told him that I was an alien. Now consider this: the man from NASA told my friend, or someone I thought was my friend, that I was an alien. As far as I know, I am not one. So where does that leave NASA? EMF is not some flake; as I say, he is a highly educated, technologically skilled senior manager. Highly respected, very good at what he does. If a guy from NASA tells him that someone, in this case, me, is an alien, then the guy from NASA must be fairly serious.

The word "shellgame." So much of it had the character of a complicated set of pre-arranged maneuvers. There is no question in my mind that EMF and I were brought together by someone or some agency, and once I had visited his place it came to the attention of lots of other agencies. There are too many snippets and incidents to tell, but I will mention one that happened to me back in Australia, Easter 1991. A friend took a

photo of me at my house in Australia. In the sky over my head are two perfectly imaged flying saucers, brighter than the sun. Three color photos. The enlargements show these incredible, beautiful craft.

It comes down to two possibilities. On the one hand EMF is telling me the truth. In that case, I can conclude that NASA is highly involved with controlling a genuine abduction scenario; that they also possess natural and "non-natural" powers of surveillance and control; that there is a blur in the distinction between man and alien. I have discovered one or two "inaccuracies" EMF has told me, but at my most trusting, I can explain these as his paranoia about who or what I am. Remember, the guy from NASA told him I was an alien...

Or, he could be telling me a crock of lies, playing a huge practical joke on me. Faked the stuff at his house, etc.

I believe that EMF is heavily under control by a group that includes both human and alien agencies. I believe he has been selected for scrutiny because of where he lives, a highly sensitive area with much going on close but hidden from the curious. Also, because he is an outstanding specimen, physically, mentally. Also because his family has links to the military, more particularly the Navy, and indeed Naval Intelligence.

The next part of the story is in many ways the strangest and the least believable. It also seems to have little at face value to do with the mystery, but it is inconceivable that two completely bizarre sequences of events should befall the same family at the same time, so they must certainly be connected.

I will call his brother Gene. He was in the Navy, and it seems, Naval Intelligence, though this was neither confirmed nor denied by Gene to his family. They just understood it to be the case. EMF had told Gene the whole story just before Gene set out on what was to be his last voyage. He died in a collision between a U.S. Naval ship and an oil tanker. I have the names, dates, places, but I won't use any real names. (If your mail, or mine, is intercepted and read, well, I guess it won't make much difference...)

Gene was the only life lost in the collision. How the hell does

an oil tanker run into a warship, anyway? The weather was clear, the sea calm. The Navy told the family the body was lost, oh no, it was found, there you go, we lost it again; literally five or six times they changed their story about whether or not the body was recovered. There was a big funeral with lots of brass in attendance. EMF saw the body before burial, and confesses to grave doubts that it was in fact his brother. His hair was purple.

EMF received returned mail he had addressed to Gene before his death. He swears that the "return to sender" is in Gene's handwriting. Some months after his death, EMF received an anonymous parcel of newspaper clippings about the collision. The sender had underlined various lines, and made some comment like, "It doesn't add up, does it?" I have been able to verify independently that the ship cited by EMF as having been in the crash does in fact exist.

There were some other snippets: Gene's personal computer was returned, but with the hard drive and all floppy disks wiped clean. So what do we have here? At the same time that EMF and family are undergoing a large-scale invasion by aliens, with NASA into their lives and property, Gene in Naval Intelligence is killed under mysterious circumstances. Or is he?

The trip on which EMF told me all this had a twist at the end. On the plane back to Australia, 14 hour flight, I sat across the aisle from this guy. We didn't talk during the flight but bumped into each other going to the men's room, etc. At the end of the flight, he asked me if I knew the procedure for connecting to the Melbourne flight. I said, "Sure. I'm on that flight, you can follow me if you like." He says, "That's great, hi, my name's Patrick, and I'm with Naval Intelligence, and I've come to Australia to spend two years working with the Australians." If I had to pick the moment in all of this when I went closest to losing it, I think that this was it. I felt like they were just playing this "joke" on me, just letting me know that they knew that I knew, etc. Once I recovered my knees it was fine. I sneaked a look at his boarding pass to get his name: Patrick P. He was just

a punk kid, and I was sure he knew nothing about who or what I was. They'd just made sure he sat next to me, or something.

I did get them back, though. The movie on the plane was "JFK" by Oliver Stone, so I kicked in a discussion of the politics of conspiracy. He was wide-eyed, "I had no idea," he was saying. So I gave him a few juicy morsels to act as seeds of doubt in his brainwashed military mind.

There was lots of other stuff that happened, but here is a kind of summary of some of it: mutilated deer; hieroglyphic characters appearing on the side of the house and on trees; lumps on the back of EMF's neck; lower-than-usual background radiation readings at landing sites; interference with EMF's e-mail box at an "above administrator" level; blond Norwegian hikers; his dog being killed the weekend I was in town; aerial photos of underground entrances; etc., etc., etc.

There's no neat ending to this tale. Frankly, it all got a bit much for me, and when circumstances in my life meant a change to a different city and a different job, I was glad in a way to be out of the loop. My new job has taken me back to the U.S. a couple of times since, but I have had no contact with EMF.

Part 3

The Hoaxers

Muddling our attempts to understand the Men in Black are the hoaxers, some of whom are well known in the field of UFO studies. Connections that the hoaxers may have with earlier-cited origins of the Men in Black experience are strictly a matter of conjecture.

12

Gray Areas

To return to the locale of the Mothman encounters, there also seems to have been hoaxing for hoaxing's sake taking place around Point Pleasant in 1966 and 1967. I will offer a disclaimer, however. I believe that the Mothman encounters may have included actual paranormal encounters, as well as probable government monitoring and simulation of UFOs and other paranormal events... but one or more hoaxers were in action at the same time.

Gray Barker, an early and renowned UFO investigator, was one person involved in researching the Mothman flap in West Virginia. John Keel and Jim Moseley have both affirmed that Gray Barker was a prolific hoaxer. Of Barker, Keel stated, "Gray left behind a rich heritage of practical jokes and UFO hoaxes (including his 1970 novel about Mothman, *The Silver Bridge*) which, like Tom's [Thomas Monteleone], are now an integral part of the flying saucer literature. He paved the way for the myriad hoaxes of the 1980s. His Lost Creek, West Virginia saucer photos were the forerunners to the Gulf Breeze, Florida fakes. His Hanger 18 fraud, his Edwards Air Force Base fairy tale (in which he named several of his personal friends as witnesses, along with President Eisenhower), etc. served as the framework for the MJ-12/Roswell, N.M. 'crashed saucer' hoaxes that absorbed the attention of many UFO buffs throughout the 1980s. The flying saucer cult owes him much."¹

Keel stated it more succinctly in our 1996 interview:

"...Gray turned into a total hoaxer. At some point, and I never could find out what really happened, he just gave up and

he said, 'Well, what the hell, we might as well have fun with this.' And so you have to be very careful with the stuff he published after 1959, because you don't know whether he's making it up."

Keel also indicated that Gray Barker was into crank phone calls, as were prevalent in Point Pleasant during the Mothman flap:

"He did a lot of the phone nonsense, and I tracked him down on it. I had friends in the telephone company. If you read my book, you know I raised hell with the phone company, and they tracked down some of the calls I got, and some of them were from Gray Barker."²

Other sources have mentioned that Gray Barker made tapes of electronic effects, of the sort associated with MIB telephone harrassment. In a recorded letter from Dominick C. Lucchesi to Barker he stated, "I enjoyed the sound effects you had on your tape... and I thought I'd kid around by starting off my reply with some kind of weird sound effect..."³

At 1 a.m. on Friday, July 14, 1967, Keel received a call from a man identifying himself as Gray Barker. According to Keel, "The voice sounded exactly like Gray's softly accented mellifluous own, but he addressed me as if I were a total stranger and carefully called me 'Mr. Keel.' At first I wondered if he hadn't been out celebrating. The quiet, familiar drawl told me that he knew I wrote for newspapers and he had just heard about a case which he thought I should look into. It was, he said, similar to the Derenstein case. Gray and I had visited Woodrow Derenberger together so I knew this was not the kind of mistake he would make."⁴

In *The Mothman Prophecies* Keel suspects this to be an imposter pretending to be Barker. I do not, and find it odd that Keel would not have stated the obvious: one more Barker prank. Another oddity is not mentioned in Keel's book: Was it simply an accident that the Mothman encounters, this most incredible of paranormal flaps, took place in Gray Barker's home state of West Virginia? Although I do not think Barker was solely responsible for what took place in Point Pleasant, I am con-

vinced that he had a hand in it.

— Gray Barker also seems to have been a player in the MIB encounters of George Smythe. The following is a statement by John J. Robinson about Smythe's experiences, originally written for *Saucer News*, and reprinted with permission:

"...The beginning of this report might be said to start on the battlefields of Korea, for it was while one of my informants, George Smythe, was fighting in that land that he became interested in UFOs. He and two other soldiers saw a flight of two saucers sweep over them, and reported the incident to their commanding officer. They were requested to report to Intelligence. When they did so, they were then told that they were suffering from battle fatigue. Regardless of the 'battle fatigue,' however, they were not relieved of their front-line fighting duty.

"Smythe then became very interested in the UFO phenomenon and began to seek information regarding it. When he returned to civilian status he proceeded to study it from his home in Elizabeth, New Jersey...

"On October 10, 1966, two teenage boys of Elizabeth reported observing a very tall (more than six foot) being, which was green in color, while they were walking in nearby woods. Before they ran away, however, they also noted that the green-headed being had two small beady red eyes and a mouth which seemed to be drawn into a horrible grimace. The creature had no nose, ears, nor hair on its head.

"Smythe learned of the incident and joined a crowd of people who were questioning the lads. As he did so he also noticed a large black car parked a good distance from the crowd. While the excited crowd questioned the teenagers, he observed two dark-visaged, heavy-set men who emerged from the car, leaving one of their party seated behind the wheel. The two men joined the crowd as Smythe watched them and once or twice he heard them question the boys. Smythe also noticed they had a slight slant to their eyes and spoke with an accent which he was unable to identify.

"Smythe informed *Saucer News* about the incident, and a team of investigators from the magazine investigated the report.

Smythe, who remained outside the home of one of the lads while the team interviewed the witness inside, again noticed the same black car parked down the block from the house. Again the same two men got out; they came close and watched the house until the *Saucer News* investigator emerged; then they returned to the black car. Other witnesses in the neighborhood reported to him later that the car remained in the vicinity for at least ten minutes before it departed.

“Two weeks after the incident, Smythe received a mysterious phone call. An unidentified voice told him to give up UFO investigation and then broke the connection. A year passed without any further incident. Then on Thanksgiving eve of 1967 a black car stopped in the dark, a short distance from his home, while Smythe was in front of the house, walking his dog. A swarthy-looking man got out of the car and approached Smythe, calling him by his name, as the dog arched its back and began to howl like a wolf. The man, who never identified himself, told Smythe that he wanted all the material on any UFO investigation he had obtained. When asked for identification, the man would give none. Smythe refused to show him anything.

“‘Are you sure you want it that way?’ the swarthy man asked.

“‘Yes,’ Smythe replied.

“‘You’ll be sorry!’ stated the visitor, as he returned to his car, the door of which opened weirdly for him without his touching it. The door had no handle which Smythe could observe. He was able to get a glimpse of a red upholstered interior before the car moved off silently, as if it might have been electrically powered. He also noticed a gold ‘V,’ with a lightning bolt superimposed upon it, decorating the door, and the license plate which bore the number ‘U 1496.’ [Unmarked 1496?]

“Smythe reports that the man’s eyes seemed to have a hypnotic quality and tended to affect him in an unexplained manner.

“The next day a battered car driven by a black leather-jacketed man wearing large sun glasses almost ran him down in

a deliberate manner; the day after, a very tall, white-faced man, with silver-colored hair, followed him to the usual bus he took for work, passing him as he got on the bus, and turning the corner. As the bus reached the corner, Smythe observed a large dark car speeding away. The next day was uneventful until an evening telephone caller advised him to give up his interest in UFOs. Then the phone went dead.

“About a month later, a man phoned, claiming to be a Major White, of the ‘UFORICE’ group. When Smythe said he had never heard of any such group, White said it was a California organization, that he was visiting New Jersey and had received information about Smythe from a friend. He knew a great deal about Smythe, including incidents which the latter had not mentioned to anybody. White refused to identify the friend, explaining, ‘I do not wish to get him into any trouble.’

“The next day Smythe observed the same white-faced man with the silver-colored hair following him again, this time from work to the bus stop. Once again he disappeared rapidly. A week later Major White called and asked him if he would be interested in seeing a UFO. When Smythe answered in the affirmative, he was told to be at Montana Park, in Elizabeth, at 8:30 p.m. Smythe complied, but no UFO appeared as promised.

“About the same time the above events were transpiring, a Mrs. Caporino of Jersey City reported to me that she had sighted a UFO out over the ocean, from the shore of Ocean Grove, New Jersey. The sighting was reported in the *Robinson Report* (a limited UFO news report service made available to the author’s colleagues in the UFO investigative field and carried in several UFO publications). Mrs. Caporino later reported to me that just after dark on three consecutive Fridays at exactly the same time (7:00 p.m.), a large black car with red upholstery pulled up under a tree, which left the car in the dark, and on each occasion two men got out, mounted the steps of her house, stood in the darkest spot of the porch after ringing her bell. One of the men carried some sort of a case with him.

“Mrs. Caporino did not answer the door on any of the three occasions, after peeking through the venetian blinds to ascertain

who was ringing. She was too frightened to find out who the men were, and also unable to get their license number and other pertinent information.

“A person in North Jersey (who did not wish his name or research group identified) called me about the same time to give me some unusual information. This man, Ron (I am permitted to use only his first name), had extensively investigated the Wanaque Lake sightings in the 1960s, and had continued to investigate the entire area.

“He was particularly interested in a convent which had previously housed children each summer, but had closed down after the wave of strange sightings; and a college in the same area which had also closed its doors, and erected a steel barricade on the road leading to it.

“Ron was driving over the roads surrounding the reservoir when suddenly his companion in the car called his attention to a parked car with some kind of electrical equipment set up in the rear seat. The equipment, with extensive dials, illuminated in a bright, bluish light, reminded him of a large amateur broadcasting set a friend of his once possessed. As they drove on, discussing this development, he noticed a roadside telephone booth in his rear view mirror. A man suddenly emerged from it and darted to a car across the road which began to follow him. Ron drove up a dead end road and stopped. The other car drove past him, with only one man, carefully keeping his face in the shadow, inside it. It parked 50 feet beyond Ron’s car. When Ron turned his car around and drove off, the other car took off after him.

“Ron drove into the town of Wanaque and parked outside the police station. The other car drove about 100 feet beyond him and also parked. This alarmed Ron and his companion further, so he made a U-turn and left the town, with the other car in hot pursuit. An expert driver, Ron managed to elude the pursuing car in turnpike traffic and swiftly drove home. Since this incident he requested and received a permit to carry a gun.

“During the first week of May 1968, a car pulled up across the street from the home of George Smythe. Three men stepped

out. Although Smythe had never seen the men before, he quickly identified them from a picture published in *Saucer News*. They were John Keel, Gray Barker, and James W. Moseley — or so he thought. Smythe, who had observed the men from an upstairs window, ran down the stairs to greet them, only to see their blue Volkswagen speeding away up the street. It bore no license plate.

“Feeling there had been something strange about the men, he telephoned Moseley and Barker, who told him they had not been away from home all day. He checked again with the picture. Although the men bore facial characteristics identical to the men in the picture, including Keel’s then copious beard, Smythe knew there had been something wrong with what he now believed to be an impersonation. Then he remembered: Barker and Keel had been of the same height — that is the impersonators — while Moseley was the shortest of the group. In reality, the actual order of height in the picture was Barker - Moseley - Keel! Whoever the impersonators had been, they had ‘goofed’ on heights.

“A week later, while he was passing a parking lot on his way home from work, three men stepped out of a black Plymouth, of 1960-62 vintage, and which bore West Virginia license plates (strangely distorted, since the ‘West Virginia’ was printed at the top instead of properly at the bottom — while the numerals ‘1436’ have since been determined not to exist on such plates without some other type of prefix or designation).

“The men accosted him as if they knew all about him, even though they asked him if his name was George Smythe. When he replied in the affirmative, they displayed S.A.U.C.E.R.S. membership cards (as members of *Saucer News*’ operating organization), bearing the names of Arthur Davidson, Thomas Murphy and Walter Mulburry (or Mulbarbery). They next asserted that they were well aware of all the events which had happened to Smythe and which he had related to the *Saucer News* staff. They simply wished him to relate once more the events as they occurred. Smythe then reviewed for them the entire series of strange happenings, while one of the trio wrote

in a notebook. Then they urged him to continue to report all future events to *Saucer News*.

"Later, when Smythe spoke to Gray Barker by telephone, he learned that neither Barker nor any of the staff had disclosed any of the information to anybody!

"During the last week of May the strange series of events seemed to be drawing closer home, when my wife, Mary, mentioned during a supper conversation that she had noticed some odd people near the house each morning as she went marketing.

"A large black car was parked near our front door and a statue-like, tall, corpse-white man with very light hair was always standing beside it. The car, she told me, had bright red upholstery. The tall man, however, had not caused her any alarm. But a dark, swarthy-faced man in a dark or black suit had looked piercingly at her as she emerged from the outer door, and then had peered into the vestibule, as if to determine if anyone else were coming out. Since this had occurred on four successive days, it was getting on her nerves. She had hesitated to mention it, she told me, for fear I would think she was 'imagining things,' and assured me that she actually had seen the men.

"I pondered on this, for I knew that when I left work at 8:00 each morning, I had seen nobody on the street. Whoever the men were, they were avoiding me and showing up half an hour later, when Mary went shopping. Why did they not try to frighten me, for I had been involved with the *Saucer News* investigation of the experiences of Smythe, and other strange events?

"Suddenly I remembered that James W. Moseley's name was on my mailbox. He did this so that he could receive mail from certain confidential sources at our address — and then he often stayed for several days at a time at our house when engaged on research projects which involved much reading and concentration (thus he would avoid telephone calls and the many personal visits by friends and people interested in interviewing him).

“Could it be that the visitors were checking up on Jim and were relatively disinterested in Mary and me? I immediately phoned Jim and told him about the men, though noises on the line led me to believe the line was being tapped. Jim told me to instruct Mary to secure the license number of the car, should she see it again, and suggested I familiarize her with the Cadillac emblem so that she might recognize it. (Both Jim and I knew that most of the men-in-black reports included a large car, usually a Cadillac.)

“The phone call evidently set off another series of happenings which are difficult — or impossible — for me to evaluate. Next morning when Mary went to shop, nobody stood at the factory entrance as usual; nor did a large black car with a pale-faced individual occupy its usual position. However, as she returned home, she noticed Jim Moseley standing in the middle of the nearby street acting almost, it seemed, like a traffic policeman! She stood and watched him for perhaps three to four minutes, while he turned and looked in all directions, apparently without noticing or recognizing her. Mary had the impression that he was attempting to see what would happen if he exposed himself, and that he evidently did not wish her to approach him. So she entered the house. She gave it little further thought, except for thinking that it was a very early hour for Jim, who usually arose about noon, to be in Jersey City (Jim at that time lived in Manhattan and the trip to Jersey City would have consumed about 45 minutes).

“A grocery item she had forgotten to purchase made it necessary for her to return to the market, so she went out again. Jim was still standing in the same position, still looking in all directions and not appearing to notice her. She observed that while he was dressed in the usual business suit, he was also wearing the gray topcoat he had worn the past winter. She knew that I had gone to work dressed only in a business suit, and that I had remarked how warm the morning was. In fact, the topcoat was the only circumstance which really struck her as odd about his being at the intersection.

“She went to the store, and when she returned, she again

stood and watched Jim at his 'station.' Then she entered the house and proceeded to clear the breakfast table, with the thought that Jim probably would ring the bell, have a cup of coffee and a chat before he returned to New York. She also again wondered how Jim had managed to get up so early — for he liked to do his UFO research late at night, and into the early morning hours, away from the pressures of his office and the many telephone calls.

"In about ten minutes the phone rang and it was Jim on the line. He explained he was still in bed, but had awakened and was wondering about the 'MIB' situation. He had an impulse to call her briefly before going back to sleep. He asked her if she had looked outside yet to see if the men were still there.

"Without explanation, she asked Jim to hold the phone. Then she ran outside (our windows do not overlook the street). Jim or the man who had looked exactly like him was no longer there, and, for the first time, this was very upsetting to my wife. She wondered if she were 'imagining things,' due to her worrying about the visitors. She ran back into the house, and tried to explain what she had seen to Jim; though by that time she had become quite shaken.

"Although he couldn't quite understand just what she had seen, Jim advised her either to stay in the house, or dash over to her neighbor's house and stay with her until I returned that evening. When I returned I found a very frightened wife, who by that time had regained her composure and was able to give me all the details in a coherent manner.

"I called Jim, and although I kidded him about Mary's seeing his doppelganger, I secretly wished that I were able to get my hands on the impersonator. Later that night I called Gray Barker and gave him all the details, and he tended to connect it with the Smythe report of the impersonations described above.

"Days passed without further incident. Mary, however, had begun to leave the house the same time as I did on weekdays, and would visit various neighbors while I was away. On Saturday, May 18, Jim called to make arrangements for Timothy Green Beckley and himself to visit us and make copies of

some of my many tape recordings. It was agreed that they would arrive early (for Jim), at 10:00 the next morning.

“As they approached my house, they observed a black Cadillac parked in front of the closed factory next door. They decided not to stop, but to drive around the block and make some passes in front of the house, to observe and take pictures (Jim had thoughtfully brought his camera). They also noted the swarthy man Mary had described, standing in the factory entrance. They managed to make only two passes and to secure the two pictures accompanying this article, before the man evidently fled; on the third circuit of the house both he and the Cadillac were gone.

“Mary had identified the man in the photograph as the same person who had looked at her so piercingly on those five mornings. At this writing (July 1st) there has been no repetition of any of the visitations. Yet, on June 11, George Smythe had called me with a report which seemed to tie in with Mary’s experience. He asked me what I thought Jim had been doing in Elizabeth that morning, and I replied that he had not been there, for I had just talked to him at his apartment, having awakened him in order to get a telephone number which I urgently needed.

“Smythe then related what had occurred. He had been on the bus, going to work as usual, and had observed Jim standing in front of the Carteret Hotel in Elizabeth, as he passed there on his usual route. Jim, he said, had smiled and waved at him. Smythe stated that Jim had worn a gray suit, with striped tie and white shirt (Moseley’s favorite mode of dress). The only relevant information concerned a trench coat ‘Jim’ carried on his arm, which Smythe described. Jim has never worn that type of coat, to my knowledge.

“A day or two after the incident, Smythe began to hear from acquaintances who told him they had been questioned by a very tall, gray-haired man, who also made inquiries about him. All but one of the people had asked the man for identification, whereupon he departed abruptly without further questioning. Those questions by the tall stranger had one thing in common: all were employees or owners of the various eating places

Smythe frequented near his place of work. Only one person, the operator of a hot dog stand, had spoken at length with the person. Apparently the tall man already possessed a great deal of information about Smythe (although the stand operator knew much about Smythe, it seemed he was unable to supply the man with anything he did not already know!).

"During the early evening of June 15, Smythe's phone rang and a 'cultured voice,' as he described it, advised him to stop all saucer research and to discontinue any connections with Barker, Moseley, Beckley, Keel, or myself. Further, he should not attend the forthcoming Congress of Scientific Ufologists (later National UFO Conference) in Cleveland. If he did not comply with the requests, he would deeply regret it, the voice warned.

"Since Smythe does not know Beckley, nor exchange information with him, and since he did not plan to attend the Congress, his caller was evidently partially misinformed.

"On the 18th Smythe called to tell me he had been unable to go to work that day, due to a particularly upsetting occurrence. Early in the morning, as he was preparing to leave and catch his bus, his dog had begun howling like a wolf while it looked out the window. Smythe went to the window and looked out. On the other side of the street was a large black car, with one man in the driver's seat, and two people in the rear, both of which were attending some kind of electronic equipment. One of the men apparently wore earphones, while the other raised a contraption which he described as 'a crystalline wheel,' with a two to three foot rod extending from it. The wheel began to glow with a yellow light; then the light suddenly concentrated into a yellow beam, which shot out, striking Smythe in the forehead, as he felt a blast of heat. Before he blacked out, he was able to note the license plate, which bore the identification, 'U 1436.' The car quickly left after the ray struck Smythe. When he recovered consciousness, he was suffering a splitting headache. The headache persisted throughout the day and two more 'blackouts' occurred."⁵

There seem to be two factors operant in this string of strange incidents. The aftermath of the October 10, 1966, monster

sighting by the two boys in Elizabeth, New Jersey, was apparently monitored by two, probably government, MIBs. George Smythe's presence in the "crowd of people" who were questioning the boys was apparently noted at that time. Two weeks later Smythe apparently had been tracked to his home and he received a threatening phone call that was followed by a series of incidents of contacts and surveillance. The most interesting segment in the report is the information about being contacted by a "Major White"... of "UFORICE." White informed Smythe of an impending UFO flyover that, although Smythe did not see it, was observed by Mrs. Caporino in another part of New Jersey.

Does this prescience about a UFO sighting indicate that White was actually an extraterrestrial posing as a human, privy to the launch patterns of flying saucers, or a human agent of the extraterrestrials? Not. It is more probable that "White" was aware of secret testing by the government or another agency scheduled for that time and wanted to convince Smythe that the Men in Black really were from outer space.

The report by "Ron" of a car in the Wanaque area apparently filled with monitoring equipment gives credence to the idea that many of the active ufologists in the area were being watched at the time. The same car and equipment were later observed by Smythe. A dish-shaped device, a "crystalline wheel" was used to shoot Smythe with a ray. Extraterrestrials in action, the delusion of an amazingly delusory ufological subculture, or an early laser "flash gun," or ultrasonic device wielded by government agents? It is impossible to know, lacking additional evidence.

All of the other mysterious events that happened to this clique of UFO fans, including the surveillance of Mary Robinson, fit neatly into the idea that the government was active and screwing with the heads of UFO buffs in those days.

But then there is the matter of the seeming clones of Moseley, Barker, and Keel. Those are the incidents which provide a supernatural tinge to this story.

Information has already been presented on Gray Barker's

hoaxing. Jim Moseley has also participated in hoaxes (and has admitted to doing so), as, for instance, in writing a letter forged on State Department stationery that was sent to George Adamski in 1957, confirming that the government knew about the Space Brothers.⁶

The extent of the effect of these hoaxes may never be known.

NOTES:

1. Keel, John A. Afterword to the 1991 edition of *The Mothman Prophecies*, IllumiNet Press, Avondale Estates, Georgia; Moseley, James. Interview conducted by Jim Keith, September 8, 1996
2. Keel, John A. Interview conducted by Jim Keith, August 23, 1996; Moseley
3. Barker, Gray. *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*, University Books, New York, 1956
4. Keel, John A. *The Mothman Prophecies*
5. Robinson, John J. Excerpt from *Saucer News*, reprinted in *The UFO Silencers*, by Timothy Green Beckley
6. Clark, Jerome. *The UFO Encyclopedia*, Omnigraphics, Inc. Detroit, Michigan, 1996

13

You Will Cease UFO Study

On August 18, 1980, the six investigators of the Swindon Centre for UFO Research in England received over 30 strange messages by telephone and the mail. The group was threatened with dire consequences if they did not cease their research into UFOs. The first message was found on the doorstep of member Charles Affleck, a written warning encased in a shrivelled plastic bag. It said:

CEASE UFO STUDY
DO NOT MEDDLE OR ELSE

Two days later another message was received in the mail:

BEWARE WE ARE WATCHING YOU ALL
DO NOT INTERFERE
WE WILL MEET

In the following week, three curious telephone calls were received by members of the group. The calls were from 10 to 20 seconds and consisted of three bleeps followed by electronic noise and three final bleeps.

A third letter was received on September 3:

IT SEEMS THAT YOU INTEND TO
CONTINUE TO INTERFERE
WE MUST MEET AT DESIGNATED PLACE
TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO BE CHOSEN

WEAR PROTECTION
TAPE REPLY
PLACE TAPE EXACT MAP REFERENCE
172 x5 816

The location when deciphered turned out to be a field outside of Swindon. The group left a written message rather than a tape, choosing not to obey the instructions exactly. Charles Affleck had also set up a tape recorder connected to his telephone, so that he was able to tape the strange electronic noises when another call was received. Listening carefully to the tape recording, the group was able to make out a message delivered by what sounded like a mechanical voice:

YOU ARE PRIMITIVE
WE ARE HERE TO WATCH YOU
WE WILL JUDGE WHAT WE WANT
YOU ARE TOO CLOSE

Fearing that they might be in danger, the group contacted the local police, who recorded the complaint and did nothing more.

The next message said:

DO NOT GO TO AUTHORITIES AGAIN OR ELSE

Another letter was received, of which the following is a portion:

YOU THINK WE ARE CRANKS
WE WILL CHANGE YOUR MINDS
WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR TWO FRIENDS
THEY CANNOT HELP
THINGS WILL HAPPEN
DO NOT SEND AGENTS TO ASSIGNMENT
THIS IS A WARNING
WE ARE HERE FOR A PURPOSE
YOU ARE ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS

YOU KNOW NOTHING OF
YOU ARE CLOSE
YOU WILL CEASE UFO STUDY
WE HAVE STOPPED OTHERS
WE WILL STOP YOU

On the 15th of September, three more phone calls were received. One of the calls was to a member of the group, 'Raymond Smithers' (a pseudonym), who explained that he had been able to make out a map reference voiced by the mechanical voice. The coordinates led the group to an area outside of Avebury, where they found a message written in ink visible only under ultraviolet light. The message promised cooperation, and there was a promise of a future meeting.

Two days later there was another telephone call that provided a map reference, and a week later a letter with a one-word message: HALLOWEEN. Other weird messages continued to be received over the phone.

On Halloween, several members of the UFO research group visited West Woods, which the most recent map coordinates had referenced. They saw a mysterious white shape cross their path in the night, but nothing else happened.

Examining the details of the messages and their arrival, it occurred to the group that only one member had not been present when one telephone message or another had been received: Raymond Smithers. This made them suspect that they were being hoaxed by Smithers. Smithers had also apparently concocted stories about photographing a downed saucer (which turned out to be a spherical sewage installation) and meeting an MIB, which made the group suspect him more.

In an attempt to find out who was sending the messages, a trap was set. In the area arranged for a message to be left, Affleck set up a camera in a box fixed to a pole buried in the ground, with the pole attached to a concrete block. The camera's flash alerted the person who arrived to pick up the message, and the camera, steel box, pole, and attached concrete block were dragged a short distance. The photo, when examined, showed Smithers picking up the message.

When Smithers was confronted, he said that he was being threatened to cause the group to disband. Smithers' day job may have had something to do with the hoaxing: he was a police constable.¹

NOTES:

1. Evans, Hilary. "Do Not Meddle Or Else," *Mysteries of Space and Time*, Orbis Publishing, Westport, Connecticut, 1992

Part 4

Beyond Reality

“In the last analysis magic, religion and science are nothing but theories of thought; and as science has supplanted its predecessors, so it may hereafter be itself superseded by some more perfect hypothesis, perhaps by some totally different way of looking at the phenomena — of registering the shadows on the screen — of which we in this generation can form no idea.”

— Sir James Frazer, *The Golden Bough*

A significant number of inexplicable Men in Black cases persist after available explanations such as hoaxes, delusion, government operations, and witchcraft ceremonies are exhausted. Even UFO buffs remain too literal about the MIBs, discarding many of the more ‘crazy’ events in favor of the grey alien and spaceship-associated stories that are more homogeneous with their otherworldly worldview.

14

The Real/Unreal Men in Black

Adolf Hitler may have encountered a Man in Black. According to Rauschning, the Governor of Danzig at the time, Hitler was talking about the mutation of the human race: "But all you can do," Hitler said, "is to assist Nature and shorten the road to be followed! It is Nature herself who must create for you a new species. Up till now the breeder has only rarely succeeded in developing mutations in animals — that is to say, creating himself new characteristics.

"The new man is living amongst us now! He is here!" proclaimed Hitler in near ecstasy. "Isn't that enough for you? I will tell you a secret. I have seen the new man. He is intrepid and cruel. I was afraid of him."

Rauschning also said of Hitler, "A person close to Hitler told me that he wakes up in the night screaming and in convulsions. He calls for help, and appears to be half paralyzed. He is seized with a panic that makes him tremble until the bed shakes. He utters confused and unintelligible sounds, gasping, as if on the point of suffocation. The same person described to me one of these fits, with details that I would refuse to believe had I not complete confidence in my informant.

"Hitler was standing up in his room, swaying and looking all round him as if he were lost. 'It's he, it's he,' he groaned; 'he's come for me!' His lips were white; he was sweating profusely. Suddenly he uttered a string of meaningless figures, then words and scraps of sentences. It was terrifying. He used strange expressions strung together in bizarre disorder. Then he relapsed again into silence, but his lips still continued to move. He was then given a friction and something to drink. Then

suddenly he screamed 'There! there! Over in the corner! He is there!' — all the time stamping with his feet and shouting. To quiet him he was assured that nothing extraordinary had happened, and finally he gradually calmed down. After that he slept for a long time and became normal again..."¹

— In 1951 David Huggins, a child who would later have the experience of being abducted by aliens, was walking past a barn in the backyard of his home. A man dressed in black stood by the barn, staring at him. Huggins turned away, and when he turned back, the apparition had vanished.

In January 1991, shortly after Huggins delivered at a UFO conference his first spoken presentation of abduction experiences, he dreamed of three explosions. The following day, an unknown man drove three times around Huggins' block, stopping each time in front of his house.

Five months later, a helicopter hovered above Huggins' yard in Wellington, New Jersey, the pilot snapping photos of Huggins' yard.

In May 1996, after I had interviewed Huggins on the telephone about his experiences, he called back a few minutes later, wondering if I had phoned again. I had not. It seemed that immediately following our conversation he had received another telephone call. When he picked up the phone, there was only silence on the other end of the connection. The same thing happened to me after interviewing John Keel, three months later, only this time I was the recipient of the mystery call. Later during the production of the book I would also receive a "breather" call, associated with MIBs.²

— In Garabandal, Spain, in 1961 four girls were confronted with an apparition of "Our Lady," and noted the telling detail (in MIB lore) that she had an angular face. At her right was "A square of red fire framing a triangle with an eye."³

— An MIB made an appearance outside the city of Yangguan in the Shansi province in China, in 1963. Li Jing-Yang, a security officer in a military factory, was interviewed by the journalist Wang Shili. He related an experience that he had when he was six years old, after he and some friends had watched "a

shining, silvery disc hanging stationary and silent in the air very close to them. It was about seven or eight meters wide and shaped like one plate reversed on top of another plate. No portholes or windows were visible. It looked hermetically sealed and its metallic surface was very smooth." The young boys assumed that they had been watching an advanced military craft. The next day, however, Li Jing-Yang was stopped by "a very tall man dressed entirely in black," who asked him about the previous day's sighting. After the boy had discussed the matter with him, the man told him never to speak again of the matter.

"His skin was dark and I was surprised by the aspect of his face and intonation," Li Jing-Yang added. "The man in black was walking in a mechanical motion; he spoke, but without moving his mouth, and he disappeared suddenly as he turned a corner."⁴

— On May 24, 1964, the Templeton family of Carlisle, England undertook a picnic six miles outside of town. The father, James Templeton, snapped a photo of his youngest daughter Elizabeth picking wildflowers. When the Kodacolor photo was processed it showed a large man in the background who, the Templetons were sure, had not been there. The man, who some estimated must be seven foot tall, looked like he was wearing a white spacesuit. James Templeton took the photo to the local police, and the photo was forwarded to divisional offices, then to Kodak headquarters. The *Cumberland News* published the photo, and also contacted the Ministry of Defense, "which expressed interest." When two strange men contacted Templeton, asking him to go to the site of the photo, he assumed that they must be from the Ministry of Defense. They picked up Templeton in a Jaguar, and wore dark business suits, flashing official-looking I.D. cards. They did not, however, give their names, referring to each other only as "9" and "11." At the site where the photo had been taken, the strangers questioned Templeton only cursorily, then insisted that they knew the figure in the photo had been a passerby. Templeton said that there had been no one else in range, and argued with the men, who became

incensed and got in the Jaguar and drove off, leaving Templeton to walk home.

Jenny Randles, who interviewed Templeton in May 1990, said that the man was still angered by his treatment, assuming that the men had been from the British government. Randles wrote:

"I have come across perhaps a dozen British cases with men in black overtones. Almost invariably the witnesses consider these persons to be Ministry of Defense investigators — commonly alleging that some such identification was shown to them. The MoD position on this is firm. It never sends investigators to interview UFO witnesses. While MoD does record sightings, this is done via UFO report forms and occasional phone interviews... Nearly every British MIB case in my files mentions [a Jaguar] as the vehicle of choice."⁵

— In January 1968, in Yorkshire, England, four young girls were walking past a churchyard when they saw a tall MIB. Although the figure was close they could not discern its face, and they noted that although it was very cold outside, there was no visible breath. One child screamed and the MIB walked away without the sound of footsteps.⁶

— About 1:00 a.m. on February 26, 1968, a man in Phoenix, Arizona woke up when he heard a loud knock on his door. According to the man, "I saw a man standing in my room at some distance, wearing dark clothing... I couldn't see his face... he was slender and not tall, perhaps five feet nine. He changed position a few times... and then he was gone."⁷

— In an article entitled "MIB: The Deeper Implications" published in an obscure conspiracy journal, author Brent Raynes described the curious case of "Bill." At the age of one or two, Bill, along with other family members, was sitting on the porch when he saw a UFO "as big as a washtub" hovering above a nearby cedar tree. This would not be their last encounter.

On July 27, 1952, Bill discovered that photos he had taken on his honeymoon contained a mysterious symmetrical triangle of lights.

In the spring of 1961, a bird with a 20-25 foot wingspan

(reminiscent of some of the avians linked to the Mothman sightings) was sighted by Bill's father, in the vicinity of where Bill and his wife had been walking.

During the 1960s, Bill's mother experienced four curious sightings. One was of a silent red UFO. On another occasion, she saw what she described as a "tar baby" viewing her through a window. Later, she saw a red, glowing UFO sitting practically atop her Buick. In later incidents, she saw another red, glowing UFO hovering near a tree, and a white, glowing object near Bill's sister's car.

On April 4, 1968, Bill and his wife encountered an approximately ten-foot-diameter silent red glowing UFO. That night an MIB visited the couple in the hotel in Knoxville where Bill worked. He was dressed in black, with "jet black" hair. According to a letter from Bill describing the encounter with the MIB,

(1) "...we told him that Dr. King had been shot at Memphis. His negative type of reply was: 'Good! I hope he dies!' We believe this was a test for reaction."

(2) "...Just prior to his leaving he put us through a quiz. He said, 'Every man has his price.' To which we commented that some things were beyond price. Nevertheless he continued with a quiz concerning public nudity. The MIB asked, 'Would you run naked across the highway for ten thousand dollars?' We both said no. By the time the MIB reached \$100,000, Bill lost his emphasis in his 'no' and the MIB retorted, 'See! Every man has his price!'"

(3) "We still do not know the meaning of that visitation, but we do feel that the MIB may have, among other things, tried to warn us that if the stakes were high enough or goals seemed important enough, Bill might resort to unconventional behavior." This is a reference to an obsessiveness that Bill had about time and clocks, which may have contributed to his being dismissed on medical charges from the Air Force. It is important to note that Bill believes that he had been drugged at the time.

(4) Bill woke up one night realizing that someone had been talking to him on the phone. The receiver was still off the hook,

and his hand was over at the receiver. The caller had been counting, and Bill is fairly certain that they were counting backwards, starting with nine. There have been a few times when people called when he was asleep and he would lay there snoring into the mouthpiece while the caller was chattering away, but he would usually know who they were and call them back when he got awake.

In spring 1968 Bill and Laura saw another UFO hovering above the Knoxville Tennessee Fair. The couple followed the UFO in their car at about a distance of 200 feet for several blocks, until the UFO suddenly accelerated and vanished. Later in 1968, Bill saw another "tar baby" man gazing at him through the window of the motel where he was working. Bill chased the "tar baby" as it fled. During this same period, Bill and his wife encountered grapefruit-sized balls of white light in the UFO, and also watched three "Star-like" UFOs chased by a jet aircraft. Poltergeist-like knockings were also heard in the area of the motel roof at this time.

Although there are numerous 'paranormal' aspects to this string of incidents, there are also portions of it that smack of intelligence agency manipulation, such as the numbers recited to Bill over the telephone while he was asleep, and the fact that Bill believed he was drugged when discharged from the Air Force.⁸

— Brian Leathley-Andrew, a UFO researcher in Coventry, England, returned home in October 1968 to find: "I was by myself. Suddenly I noticed a man standing by the next-door garage. Nobody had been there before. His face was glowing orange and as I watched, the face changed to that of an old man before my eyes. You could not describe the first face in normal terms. It had eyes, nose, and mouth in the proper places but not of the shape that we associate with the human figure." Shortly after seeing the strange apparition, Leathly-Andrew began to experience problems with his telephone, and to get threatening phone calls. Mr. Leathley-Andrew soon terminated his investigations of UFOs.⁹

— In Massachusetts in fall 1969, a motorist came across a

large UFO blocking the road. A man with “popping eyes” and a red face who had difficulty breathing approached the car and asked for a lift to town. The man wore a short black coat and “very shiny green trousers made out of some material I have never seen before.” After the odd man had gotten into the car, the UFO lifted, took off and vanished. The motorist asked the man where he came from and received the reply, “You wouldn’t understand.” The motorist thought about going to the police, but when the man was deposited on Main Street he said, “Nobody is going to believe you, so don’t bother.” The man staggered away.¹⁰

— In October 25, 1973, 22-year-old Stephen Pulaski and two ten-year-old boys observed a 100-foot diameter red glowing UFO outside of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Screaming sounds were also coming from the nearby woods, and the air was pervaded by a sulphurous smell. While watching the UFO they also saw two Sasquatch-like apemen, with estimated heights of seven and eight feet. Pulaski fired his rifle, apparently hitting one of the apemen three times. At the same time, the UFO vanished, although a glow remained in the atmosphere. The two apemen retreated into the woods.

Pulaski called the police, and he and a state trooper named Byrne investigated the area. At this point the two men had the impression that they were being followed by something that was knocking down trees as it moved.

Later in the day, UFO researcher Stan Gordon arrived with four members of his research group, meeting with Pulaski and his father. The animals in the area (farm animals and Pulaski’s dog) seemed agitated. Questioned by investigator George Lutz, Pulaski seemed to become possessed or to go into convulsions, breathing heavily and growling. He collapsed, but when he was revived he said, “Get away from me. It’s here. Get back.”

At this point the group noticed the smell of sulphur again, and decided to leave the area. As Pulaski was being helped down a hill he pointed and screamed, “Keep away from the corner! It’s in the corner!” Pulaski said that he had seen a man in a black hat and cloak, carrying a sickle. Pulaski stated, “If man doesn’t

straighten up, the end will come soon... There's a man here now who can save the world."

A few weeks later, Pulaski was interviewed by psychiatrist Dr. Berthold Schwarz. Pulaski again entered a trance state and spoke again of the Man in Black, saying there was a "fire" behind him and a "force" in front of him. Pulaski stated,

Behind us was a big light. In this light something was telling me to go forward... The creatures kept calling me and the light kept saying 'Go, my son, you can't be hurt.' As I walked to the edge of the woods, the creatures kept wailing. I looked at them and all I could think of was death and the faceless form in the black robe who was commanding these things to kill me — it was hate — a hatred for everything. I know that these things came from this force and if they got to the light they would be destroyed. The tension was so terrific that I passed out. Then I heard, 'He is here!' But who is he? Somebody was putting a puzzle in my head. Is there someone smarter than us that is playing upon us, laying a picture or puzzle out for us?¹¹

— Beginning a series of strange New Hampshire sightings, on November 1, 1973, Florence Dow heard a thumping sound on her porch. Looking out, she saw a man in a black coat and a wide-brimmed black hat, with what appeared to be a face covered with masking tape.

The following night, Lyndia Morel observed a spherical UFO covered with honeycomb material approaching as she drove to work. The UFO came closer, and looking through a single window, Morel saw an occupant with grey wrinkled skin and huge slanted eyes, apparently a classic "grey." Morel fled into a farm driveway and hid inside the house until the craft departed.

Two days later, Rex Snow and his wife saw two small creatures in silver suits. Snow ordered his German Shepherd to attack the beings, but the dog ran back to the house.¹²

— In April 1974 Frank and Kathy (pseudonyms) were driving in rural east Hancock County, Ohio, when they saw a brilliant light on the horizon. Assuming that it was a fire, they

drove towards it in case they might offer help. When the light shot into the air, they could see it wasn't a fire. Frank stated to MUFON investigator Marc Hunker, "That ain't no barn fire. Looked like the whole northeast section of the sky was on fire from it. It was pulsating and shooting off light. It was down on ground level, treetop height and below, just nosing around along the ground there."

Frank described what happened as they continued to drive toward the light:

I got on channel 18 [of his CB radio] and broke four other guys, and I told them, 'Fellows, this is the Longrifle Man out here on the Cromer Road, and I got a saucer critter... It's reddish orange and maybe two or three hundred yards across, and it's moving around.

Marc Hunker was able to locate two persons who had heard the CB message, and one of them had also seen the UFO. Frank also told Hunker:

While we were talking on the radio, that thing seemed to open up and eject, on the end of a rope or something, a large square box-kite contraption. It stuck 'em out, and they'd go whirly-whirly-whirly in the air for a while, and then it'd stick 'em back in and close the door. Appeared to me that it was taking samples of some kind.

It turned towards us and approached. That's when I first said, 'Kathy, let's get out of here. We don't want to get scooped up in that contraption.' But when it started chasing us, it quit pulling 'em out.

When it turned slaunch ways — that's edgeways — it would look like a long cigar. But when it would straighten out, it'd look like a saucer. And when it came towards us —it came within a half a mile — I could hear some kind of running sound very faintly to it... Anyway, we turned around and hauled tail out of there...

It must have got aggravated at me for telling the world where it was at and what it was doing because it commenced to following us... It followed us for 47 miles according to my speedometer. We finally caused it to leave when we turned out the lights. Seems like it was following us by watching the headlights! So I turned out the

lights, and with a black car in a black night, it — I guess — finally gave up and left.

Frank and Kathy turned off the road at the Wigwam bar and restaurant. By that time, it was 2:15 A.M. A strange man quickly rushed up to them and asked, "What did you see in the sky?" Frank and Kathy describe the man as being about 5 foot 4 inches and bald, weighing about 140 pounds. They also say that his fingers were twice as long as normal. A waitress at the Wigwam later confirmed to Marc Hunker that she had seen the strange man sitting at the bar.

"You must have a CB," Frank replied to the man. "Did I talk to you?"

"No," the man said, and stared blankly. His voice seemed to slow down, and he said, "What... did... you... see... in... the... sky?"

Frank asked him, "If you don't have a CB, how do you know about it?" The man ignored the question. Finally Frank told him that it was none of his business, but again inquired how the man knew about what had happened if he didn't have a CB.

According to Frank, the man "got the stupidest look on his face, and then he said the weirdest thing I ever heard." He said, in the same slow voice, "I... live... by... visions!" Frank described what happened, incredibly, next: "He bugged his eyes out of his head a good three inches!"

Kathy added, "Sometimes further. I thought that I was seeing things. But... I knew we weren't seeing things." The couple also say that when the man uttered the 'visions' remark, his mouth opened wider than normal, "five inches at least."

Frank said, "I looked daggers at him. He was starting to make me disgusted, saucer critter notwithstanding. He goes making eyes at my lady... He turned away and went to the other end of the bar."

When Frank and Kathy started to leave, the weird man shouted, "Hey! Where do you think you're going? You get back here! I want to talk to you!"

Ignoring the man, Frank and Kathy drove off. "Everything was all right for a couple miles," Frank said. "And then there

was two bright eyes that appeared like headlights, only they were real close-set together — closer set than a jeep would be... They appeared to vary from three inches in diameter and very intense to about 12 inches... and they'd go back up and raise up." Frank first took the lights to be those of a car. He turned off the lights of his own car, and "All of a sudden," he said, "zoop! zoop! zoop! Right down he went! He overrun the road, stopped in his tracks, backed up, turned down the road, and then took off it... I presumed that he left... I turned on the lights again, and about two minutes later, blink! There he was, right behind us again."

"Just about then," Kathy said, "it felt like a force came up behind me — behind my head — and made me turn around and look back. We were sitting there where the road ended and the other road comes through. And when I turned around, I seen this big orange ball coming up behind the car. And it acted like it was going to suck us up... I went to say, 'Frank, the red ball!' But all I could say was a bunch of mumbles."

By this time the first lights had reappeared next to the orange ball. Frank described what happened next:

A little man on a little black object... kept a-going back and forth. It was just like a little black man. Like a devil or something. It looked like it had an odd-sized top on it. It was all funny-shaped. I can distinctly remember the triangle on the end of the tail. I was sitting still, trying to make up my mind whether to cross 12 and go south or go in on 12...

But I made up my mind that we better go straight across. And then all this transpired, and instinct took over, and I pulled him into low gear, and away we went across. I let in the clutch and did give it gas, and nothing happened. 'Come on, come on, let's go! We ain't gonna wait around for this thing!' And I realized that the rear tires had broke traction...

I stopped, put it in reverse, and backed up, and I definitely felt it wham something solid. Yanked it into low and floored it, and it broke loose three times and then pulled itself across Route 12. And then the critter started following us again.

We saw two white lights, and they were just like glued to the

window. We kept seeing this thing — the little man — going back and forth, back and forth.

Kathy and Frank were followed home, with the UFO departing about a quarter of a mile from Frank's house in Findlay. After they had gone inside, the UFO departed and did not reappear.¹³

— In Gansu province, China, on July 29, 1974, a student from the polytechnic college at Lanzhou had the following strange encounter. He relates, "I was going to eat at the restaurant reserved for the young personnel from the city on duty in the fields. As I walked around a rice field, I suddenly spotted a man all black, some 30 feet in front of me. He seemed tall and robust, with a height of about 5.9 feet. I couldn't discern his facial features, since it was very dark, yet the black man was plainly visible in the darkness because his whole body was faintly luminous."

The young man immediately assumed that the figure was a peasant sent to inspect the irrigation system. He called out to him, asking who he was. The MIB said nothing, but "began to glow more brightly, disappearing suddenly between the tall grass." The man searched for the MIB but found nothing. Although he did not relate the story to any of his acquaintances, two days later "at precisely the same spot, the chief of our brigade encountered a faintly luminous black man."¹⁴

— The late UFO investigator Dr. J. Allen Hynek related the following story:

Now I'll tell you a whopper! Someone called the Center's 'Hot Line' in the middle of the night — got me out of bed. It was a police officer from a small town in Minnesota, where a localized [UFO] flap had been going on since November [1975]. What he told me seems to fit in with these paranormal elements.

It seems that a couple was riding down a highway toward town, when the man remembered he had to make a phone call. He swung his car into the driveway of a motel and proceeded to walk toward an outdoor phone booth. Just as he was about to open the door to the booth, a big black Cadillac pulled up in front of him, blocking

his path. A man hopped out of the front seat and literally pushed the gentleman out of the way in an effort to get to the phone first. Miffed by this uncourteous action, the man drove down the highway until he came to a second roadside telephone. This time the mysterious black car nearly drove the fellow and his wife into a ditch. They narrowly escaped injury. As before, the big 'Caddy' came to screeching halt, the front door flew open and out raced the same individual. His destination was the telephone. 'He just about took the dime out of my hand!' was the way he reported the incident.

The story is not over... According to the police officer who called me, the identical format was followed a third time. By now the couple was burning mad. They chased the car down the highway trying to copy down the license plate number, which they were successful in doing. Suddenly — and this is where the whole episode gets eerie — before their eyes, the vehicle in front of them lifted up into the air and disappeared 'as if it had flown into another dimension'!

Immediately the confused couple contacted the police. The investigating officer — the lawman who called me — said his department verified the fact that this particular license plate number had been issued to a gentleman residing in a nearby town. When questioned, this individual refused to say whether or not he was involved in the episode. Eventually the officer impressed him with the fact that he might be charged with reckless driving if he didn't 'come clean.' With this, the man stated that he was a Jehovah's Witness and therefore could not tell a lie. The outcome was that he did not see the episode as a UFO experience but accepted it in the context of his religion. Normally he wouldn't bother to investigate this sort of thing, but somehow it just seems to fit in. I know there are many unanswered questions here, but we will just have to leave it as a cliff-hanger until a later date.¹⁵

— On the night of September 11, 1976, a strange visitor knocked on the door of Doctor Herbert Hopkins, in Orchard Beach, Maine. The visitor had earlier telephoned, saying that he was the vice president of the New Jersey UFO Research Organization (an organization later found not to exist). The man was wondering if he might come over and discuss a case that the doctor had been working on. Hopkins had been hypnotically

regressing a UFO abductee, David Stephens, in the weeks prior to the visit.

Immediately upon Hopkins' hanging up the phone, the man was on his front porch. Hopkins commented, "I saw no car, and even if he did have a car, he could not have possibly gotten to my house that quickly from any phone." Hopkins allowed the man in, noticing his unusual appearance. "I thought, he looks like an undertaker," Hopkins later remarked.

The reaction of Hopkins' dog was remarkable. According to Hopkins, "When he came to the house, the dog, half collie and half German Shepherd, began to whine, and ran into the closet and hid. The cat was unmoved. But the dog was horrified. I had quite a time getting the dog out of the closet. He was so frightened he had even urinated right there. I was afraid if he was outside he would never have come back in. Normally, the dog is not a scaredy-cat. Really, he's a darned good watchdog. I'd never seen him frightened of anything at all. He just has no fear."

The visitor was dressed completely in black, except for a dark blue shirt and suede gloves. His jacket had no buttons, and he wore a derby hat. The man was completely bald, even lacking eyebrows and eyelashes. His skin was dead white, with an odd plastic consistency, and his lips were bright red. Dr. Hopkins says that, "He was wearing gloves. They looked like gray suede, and he idly brushed his lips with the back of the glove, and when he put his hand down, the back of his glove was bright red, and the red on his mouth was smeared... Then I could see that his mouth was perfectly straight. He did not have what we call lips, so the lipstick, I concluded, was there as some sort of decoy, so to speak, only it was done poorly. The lips did not turn down. They did not smile. They did not turn up, nor did they form an oval. They were just simply flat, like a dummy — Charley McCarthy — and I didn't see any teeth, and his head seemed to blend into his collar. He had a receding chin, and he didn't move his head at any time. Neither did he nod his head. He was perfectly immobile except that his entire body moved."

Hopkins also found the man's eyes "Remarkable. They

weren't round. They weren't slit-like. And from where I was sitting I really couldn't tell the color of his eyes. They certainly appeared to have an iris pupil, but I wasn't observant enough to see the color, except they were darkish, perhaps dark blue — I'm not sure."

The visitor seemed to be familiar with the UFO case Hopkins was investigating. His English was flawless and he spoke in a monotone. According to Dr. Hopkins, "He constructed no phrases and contracted no sentences — just a sequence of words very evenly spaced. A scanning speech they call it. His voice was so completely neuter and passive — no inflection, no intonation, no nothing! Just like you'd get from a machine that could talk, if you could picture that."

One remarkable aspect of the visit was that the visitor may have been telepathic. He knew that the doctor had a dime and a penny in his pocket. The man asked Hopkins to remove one of them from his pocket, and to hold it in his open hand. Hopkins describes what happened next:

It was a bright new copper penny, and I held it up in my fingers, but I was asked to hold it flat in the palm of my hand. I did so and looked at him not knowing what to expect next. 'Don't look at me, watch the coin,' he said. And I did. It suddenly began to develop a silvery color — and the silver became blue, and then I had trouble focusing. I could focus on my hand perfectly well — that was my reference point — but the coin simply was gone. Not abruptly. It simply slowly dematerialized — it just wasn't there anymore. I didn't smell anything. I didn't feel anything. I didn't hear anything.

I was just fascinated at that point. I was spellbound, and I knew something strange was happening in my hand, because I could feel the weight of the penny going away. I don't know how he did this. He didn't perform any hocus-pocus, he didn't move his hands in any way.

The conversation abruptly turned to famous UFO abductees Betty and Barney Hill, and the visitor asked Hopkins if he knew what had happened to Barney Hill. Hopkins said that he had believed that he had died. "That's right," the visitor agreed.

“And you know what he died from? The reason he died was because he knew too much!” The visitor added, “Barney didn’t have a heart, just like you no longer have a coin.”

The visitor ordered Hopkins to destroy his tape recordings of the hypnotic sessions, as well as any other materials on UFOs that he possessed. If Hopkins did not do so — and he would know if he had not — then he would suffer the same fate as Barney Hill.

It seemed to Hopkins that the visitor’s voice was slowing down. He abruptly got up, wavering on his feet, then said, “My energy is running low — must — go — now — goodbye.” He walked slowly to the door, which Hopkins opened for him. He clung to the wall as he walked out of the house and down the steps. Hopkins observed a bright bluish light in the area of the driveway, brighter than a car’s headlamps. After he had walked around the corner there was a flash of light and the man was gone. Hopkins was so fearful after his visitation that he erased the tapes of the hypnotic sessions, and had nothing further to do with the tape. After his family had returned, Dr. Hopkins examined the driveway for a possible explanation of how the visitor had departed.

“Right in the middle of the driveway we found a series of marks that looked like a stalled caterpillar tractor-trailer, not indented in the top but there was some sand and stuff that had blown on the driveway and the marks were in the sand. The marks were about 4 inches wide and continued for about a foot-and-a-half. The driveway was not clean; there had been a storm, and there was a lot of sand blowing around, and if anything had moved out of the driveway there would be a continuous track, and no automobile could possibly have made it, being that the driveway is too narrow for a car to get far enough so its wheels could get in the middle of it. Also, they had been too deep and distinct to have been made by a motorcycle. A rubber tire doesn’t make a track that looks like that — even snowtreads. This looked like it was an imprintable metal — a clean-edged metal.”

Shortly after Dr. Hopkins’ visitation, on September 24,

1976, his daughter Maureen received a telephone call from a man claiming to know her husband John. He asked if he and a friend might visit them. John met the man at a local fast food restaurant and then brought him and his companion, a woman, home. They appeared to be in their thirties and wore old-fashioned clothing. They both walked leaning forward with short steps, as if frightened of falling, and the woman's anatomy was particularly strange. Her breasts were placed very low, while her legs seemed to be joined oddly to her hips.

The couple accepted soft drinks but did not taste them. They asked John and Maureen strangely personal questions: Did they watch television much? What did they talk about? What did they read? At the same time that they were asking questions, the male was fondling the woman, asking if it was all right he do that in their presence and whether he was doing it correctly.

When John left the room the man attempted to persuade Maureen to sit beside him on the couch. He asked 'How she was made' and whether she had any nude photos of herself. When the woman got up to leave, the man stood in her way. She requested that John move him. Then they both left without saying goodbye.¹⁶

— Ufology Society International founder Joseph Randall Murphy provides the following story, which took place July 29, 1977:

I had been working as a trackman for the Canadian Pacific Railway in Glacier National Park, British Columbia, Canada, and was traveling from there to my mother's place in Invermere, British Columbia. I was driving a 1964 Pontiac station wagon. I had left the lodge later than usual and was proceeding along Highway 95 between Golden and Radium. It was very dark and I had encountered no other traffic from any direction since the Golden intersection. At about 10:45 p.m. I was in the vicinity of Harrogate when all of a sudden from out of nowhere, a black pristine early model Cadillac traversed the highway from east to west directly in front of me. Because the Cadillac was perpendicular to mine, my headlights which were set on high beam shone directly into the side windows of the Cadillac illuminating the interior and passengers.

What I saw appeared to be two individuals in the front, one driving and looking straight ahead, the other looking directly at me out of the front passenger window, and another seated in the rear passenger side. His head was just turning to look at me as they sped by. They all appeared to be dressed identically in black overcoats and hats. They were rocking around a bit inside their car as it jumped across the highway leaving a cloud in its wake. I could clearly see the front passenger's face. Considering the situation I would have expected an expression of terror or fear, but he did not appear to be worried. It was a kind of expressionless but intense look which although unforgettable, is difficult to describe. None of them seemed in a state of panic or out of control, as if it were the sort of thing they were used to.

I jammed on my brakes to avoid what would have otherwise been a certain collision, stopped my car and got out to inspect the scene. What I found baffled me. The cloud was beginning to dissipate and there wasn't a sound to be heard except the sound of the Pontiac idling quietly on the curb. But that's not all that wasn't there. There also wasn't any road intersecting either side of the highway where the Cadillac had crossed. On the east side was a steep uphill grade through the forest and on the west side the grade continued down into the valley floor. I could see the trail of mist that the Cadillac had left descending into the darkness below. Its path was low over the bush and between the trees.

Fearing some kind of freak accident I backed up the Pontiac and aimed its headlights down the grade as far as I could. I also turned off the engine to listen for any sound of a vehicle that had crashed through the bush and trees. However there was no sound or sign other than the trail of mist which soon settled or evaporated into the air leaving no trace of what had just occurred. There were no tire tracks on either side of the road, no broken or flattened vegetation... no skid marks... no lights.. no flames... nothing.

I waited there for a few minutes, checking around for some evidence to explain what had just occurred, but there was just nothing to be found. Not wanting to leave my high beams on for too long without the engine running, I started the Pontiac and checked out the scene a while longer, climbing a few dozen yards down the grade just to be sure of things. After about ten minutes of searching without finding any clues, I decided to abandon the scene and resume my journey.

I didn't encounter any other traffic until I reached the Radium

intersection. I stopped at the Radium R.C.M.P. office to report the incident, but they weren't around. I thought that was just as well because they'd never believe me anyway. I kept an eye on the local paper for any news of missing people, accidents or lost Cadillacs, but that yielded no clues. Then in 1987 I was working at the University of Calgary preparing the grounds for the 1988 Winter Olympics when a co-worker casually asked me if I believed in UFOs. It turned out that he didn't believe UFOs were real and we entered into a debate that lasted the better part of that season. The whole debate renewed my old interest in the subject. While talking about them one day, another co-worker asked if I had ever heard of the Men in Black. Having read mostly mainstream stuff like *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, *Flying Saucers: Serious Business*, and the like, for some reason the M.I.B. phenomenon had just not made an impression on me. But when I was reminded by them, that odd experience on that desolate stretch of highway in the Rocky Mountain Trench ten years earlier suddenly came into focus.¹⁷

— In 1978, after conducting an exorcism of Loch Ness, British paranormal researcher F.W. Holiday saw a six-foot-tall man in black motorcycle clothing and helmet. Holiday felt a “strong sensation of malevolence” coming from the man. He walked past the MIB, but when he turned, the man had vanished.¹⁸

— On August 4, 1979, a girl of 14 was reportedly abducted in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Physical evidence of the abduction included matted grass, trace radiation, and physical effects on the abductee. Prior to the abduction there had been a UFO sighting on the evening of August 2. At 9:50 p.m. seven teenagers, one young boy, and 13 parents observed six UFOs — two of them arrowhead-shaped, one cigar-shaped — over the course of several minutes. At 9:55, a 12-15 foot in diameter oval-shaped UFO hovered over the roof of a nearby high school, two blocks away. The oval UFO disappeared at 10:05 p.m.

The following day, again at 9:50 p.m., the same observers, plus three additional individuals, watched a football field-sized oval object travelling at about a 300-foot altitude. At 10 p.m. two members of the group watched two large arrowhead-shaped

UFOs at an approximate 500-foot altitude, while "Sarah," a 14-year-old girl in the group, walked to a nearby field and, at 10:10 p.m. watched four bright lights hovering above at about 500 feet.

Again at 9:50 on the following day, August 4, the same group returned to the field where they had observed UFOs on the two preceding nights. At about that time, the mother of one of the teenagers watched an arrowhead-shaped UFO from a location a few blocks away. Immediately after her sighting, two arrowhead-shaped UFOs were seen by the people waiting in the field. At 10:05, Sarah returned to the field where she had the solo sighting the night before. She watched an arrowhead UFO about the size of a car settle to a height of two to three feet, and walked to within two feet of the object. Sarah saw four "shadow-like" four-foot-tall football-shaped entities come out of the object and hover above the ground. Sarah passed out, waking up 15 minutes later.

Sarah's face was orange-red, her eyes were dilated, and she had a pinprick on her index finger and an elongated scrape with a pinprick inside of it on the base of her thumb. When witnesses, along with Joseph Muskat of the Canadian UFO Research Network, later returned to the site of Sarah's observation, they found a triangular area of flattened grass that had a grey pallor, corresponding in size to Sarah's description of the UFO. Geiger counter readings showed the area to be higher in radiation than the surrounding area. Sarah later underwent hypnotic abduction by a doctor contacted by CUFORN and remembered details of her abduction.

Sarah believes that she was taken through the wall of the UFO, where she observed seven shadowy football-shaped creatures that she could see through, as well as a normal human who told her he was there to be tested. The aliens told her telepathically that they had also picked her up for testing, and promised to return for another visit when she was 25. According to Sarah, they travelled in the space ship to another planet while she was given a physical examination. Her thumb and index fingers had pinpricks burnt in them by a light which was placed on them.

Under hypnosis, Sarah also recalled that a grinning six-foot-tall Man in Black had followed her into the school courtyard during lunch some days prior. The MIB had slanted eyes, a grey-toned face, long fingernails on tapering fingers, and wore a black suit. He had questioned her about her friends, and she had felt that he had a malevolent intent. The MIB told her that he had friends everywhere and insisted that she tell him about her abduction. Sarah's mother said that the girl had seen ghosts in the past, and was also interested in the occult. The abduction would seem to be a simple case of adolescent delusion, if it had not been for the physical evidence and the multiple sightings by other individuals, including adults. Those factors tip the scale toward consideration of the abduction as a real event.¹⁹

— In France, after the alleged UFO abduction of Franck Fontaine, he and two other men were contacted by MIBs. According to one of the men, Jean-Pierre Provost,

The night of Friday the 7th to Saturday the 8th of December, 1979, Franck, Salomon and I had sat up talking for a long time, and went to bed sometime around 5 to 5:30 in the morning. At 7 there was a ring at the door: Salomon and Franck didn't hear it, so I went to open the door. I found myself in the presence of three fellows. One was of average height, very well dressed in dark green, almost black, black tie, white shirt and waistcoat to match his suit; he had a fringe of beard, black like his hair, and a moustache. His general appearance was pretty good. The others were bigger than him, taller and more heavily built.

What follows, I haven't told the police — I reported the visit itself to them — because we've already had enough of being taken for crackpots! But these two types, with the bearded man, didn't really exist, that I'm certain of! In the first place, they had no sight. That's hard to explain: they fixed me with their eyes, but those eyes were nothing but a white mass, all over. They were terrifying!

The bearded fellow asked me, 'Are you one of the three?' By which obviously he meant, was I one of the three people concerned in the Cergy-Pointoise case. I said 'yes,' and he went on: 'Good, in that case you can pass the word to your companions: you've already

said too much. An accident will happen to you. And if you say any more, it will be more serious than that...'

And with that they vanished; but how, that's something I can't begin to explain. They didn't take the lift, I'd have heard it if they did; and even more so if they'd used the stairs, the door makes a deafening row! I went to the window that overlooks the parking lot. I can tell you definitely that all that night, at least until 5 a.m. or later, we'd noticed a Ford Capri in metallic green standing beneath our window, a Ford that we didn't recognize. Well, when I looked down, there was this Ford, just starting up. How had they managed to get to it without using the stairs or the lift? Complete mystery.

I woke up Franck and Salomon and we went to the police, without giving them the unbelievable details about the two toughs. The police said, 'So long as they didn't actually attack or wound you, there's nothing we can do, so get back home.' And that was that.

Provost reported that he saw the three men on several other occasions, but the only time they made contact with him was when he was threatened again, this time in a tobacco shop. Placed under hypnosis, Provost identified the men as coming from inside the Earth, and added that the bearded man had been real, but that his two companions had not been.²⁰

— "'The Men in Black are part of the extraordinary encounter continuum — fairies, monsters, ETs, energy forms, flying saucers, flaming crosses,' said [Peter] Rojcewicz, a 37-year-old professor of humanities and folklore at New York's Juilliard School... Rojcewicz told the audience that his own MIB (Men in Black) experience occurred in 1980. 'I have never gone public with this before,' he said... He was just sitting in the University of Pennsylvania library, reading a UFO book suggested by another professor who thought that Rojcewicz, as a folklorist, would be interested in such phenomena. 'Then in the corner of my vision I noticed a black pants leg and a black shoe, scuffed,' Rojcewicz said... Standing in front of him, Rojcewicz said, was a very gaunt, very pale man. He was about 6-1, weighed about 140 pounds and wore a black suit, black shoes, black string tie and a bright white shirt. 'His suit was loose and it looked as though he had slept in it for three days,' Rojcewicz said.

Rojcewicz didn't know what to make of the figure. At the time he wasn't aware of the Men in Black phenomena which, he subsequently learned, dates back to at least biblical times. 'He sat down, like he had dropped from the ceiling — all in one movement' and folded his hands on top of a stack of books in front of him, Rojcewicz said. The Man in Black asked Rojcewicz what he was doing. Rojcewicz said he was reading about flying saucers. 'Have you seen a flying saucer?' the Man in Black asked. Rojcewicz said he hadn't. 'Do you believe in the reality of flying saucers?' Rojcewicz said he didn't know much about them and wasn't sure he was very interested in the phenomena. The man screamed: 'Flying saucers are the most important fact of the century and you are not interested?' 'I tried to calm him,' Rojcewicz said. The man got up, once again all in a single awkward movement, put his hand on Rojcewicz's shoulder and said: 'Go well on your purpose' and left.

'Rojcewicz looked out at his audience. 'In ten seconds I was overwhelmed by fear. I had a sense that this man was out of the ordinary and that idea frightened me. I got up and walked around the stacks toward where the reference librarians usually are. The librarians weren't there. There were no guards there — there was nobody else in the library.

"'I was terrified.' He went back to the table where he had been reading, 'to get myself together. It took me about an hour. Then I got up and everything was back to normal, the people were all there.'

'He didn't talk about his experience in public because he was concerned about how people might react to his story, he said. Was he dreaming? He doesn't think so. He said he suspects he was in an 'altered state.'

'Rojcewicz said he thinks his experience — and that of others who have been exposed to the Men in Black — are somewhere 'in the crack' between real life and fantasy.'²¹

— In October 1981, three days after a UFO sighting in Victoria, British Columbia, Grant Breiland saw two sun-tanned, expressionless men who lacked fingernails observing him at a K-Mart department store. They were stiff, seemingly "at atten-

tion,” and were dressed in very dark blue clothes. They approached, and one asked Breiland in a monotonous, mechanical voice, “What is your name?” Their lips did not move when they spoke. Breiland said, “I’m not going to tell you that.” The other man asked where Breiland lived, and then, “What is your number?” — not “phone number.” Breiland did not respond. The MIB stared at him for five seconds, then turned and left, but Breiland followed them out of curiosity. The Men in Black waited at the edge of a muddy, plowed field and, as Breiland watched them, he thought he heard someone call out his name. Turning around, he saw no one. The MIB walked into the field, and again, Breiland thought that he heard someone calling him, although he saw no one. Suddenly the MIB vanished three-quarters of the way across the field. Breiland was unable to locate any footprints. Breiland noted that, mysteriously, no other persons were in sight at the busy shopping area during the entire incident, and the setting was only repopulated after the MIB had vanished. This “depopulation” anomaly has been noted in other UFO and MIB cases, and has been termed “the Oz Effect” by British UFO investigator Jenny Randles.

Breiland was later interviewed by Dr. P.M.H. Edwards, formerly professor of linguistics at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Dr. Edwards found Breiland to be a quite credible witness of above average intelligence.²²

— “C.B.” from New York City had an experience with an unusual man who, while not wearing black, shares many characteristics with classic MIB encounters. In December 1984 at about 11 p.m., C.B. left her office after putting in some overtime. Confessor and Carlos, two maintenance men at the building, were closing the building, and the three walked out together. C.B. bade the maintenance men goodbye and then, as she turned the corner, “three small globes of red light” suddenly appeared and began to circle around her. According to C.B., “They floated around me rapidly, at knee height. Something in my head told me to stand perfectly still, that to attempt to walk through the circle of flying red lights would be dangerous. I thought that a trick was being played on me. I looked up and

saw both maintenance men standing across the street and called out to them, 'What are you doing?' Both of them stared back with their mouths open in amazement."

C.B. continued home, feeling relieved after the curious encounter. She stopped by a deli to get cigarettes and there was a new counter man she had never seen before. "He was very tall — at least six foot three or four. His appearance was striking; he looked like he may have been a combination of African, Oriental and Nordic blood. His skin was very pale with a yellowish cast, and his hair was negroid, with tight kinky curls, except that it was the color of wheat. He had a broad mouth and very large, remarkable eyes the color of gold coins — almond-shaped and slanted. He was dressed in the white uniform of a deli man. I was the only customer and we were alone in the store.

"I mentioned that he must be new there since I knew everybody else, and he smiled very gently and looked into my eyes with a searching gaze. When he gave me my change, I noticed that his hands were very smooth and his fingers very long. He seemed to be looking beyond me into the snowy night when he said, 'It doesn't happen very often, but when it does, it can be very scary.'

"What do you mean?" C.B. asked. "The snow? That happens all the time — that's not scary." He looked at me as if to say, 'Don't you know what I mean?' and then we both laughed. I had the crazy feeling that we both knew exactly what he meant, but I wasn't prepared to acknowledge it just then."

C.B. got her cigarettes and then took a cab home. The following day she saw Carlos and Confessor, the maintenance men, again. They wanted to know what the red lights were that had encircled her, confirming their existence to C.B., since she had believed that she was the only one who had witnessed them.

C.B. felt that there was a chance that the counter man at the deli had also seen the lights and, looking for confirmation, that night she visited the store again. At the deli, she asked about the new counter man, and one of the employees she was familiar with told her there was no new employee. He also said that he

had manned the counter the previous night, and that she hadn't come into the store.²³

— The following anonymous story was obtained from a computer bulletin board in January 1996:

"I am the lead vocal for a top-40 cover band in Southern California. During a late night jam session with my band (this was late January), we took a cigarette break. We sat around, talking about nothing, really. The night air was warm, and the sky was pretty clear. I don't remember what happened next, only that the next thing I knew, it was mid-afternoon, two days later! Now before you go on and assume that because we're musicians that we must be drug users, alcoholics, etc., let me just say that I am not a drug user or a drinker. And that night was no exception to my own personal rule. Little bits and pieces come back to me. I believe that I was abducted by aliens. For one, there is a little scar now, on my right forearm. It's barely visible. The fingers on my right hand are not as agile as they once were. Along the scar line, there is no hair (I am a very hairy person). There are other such scars on my chest, neck and legs, although my muscles in these areas are just fine. Since that night, I've been having recurring visions of human-like beings sticking huge needles into me, drawing out fluids and being cut up and sewn back together. This has not been very pleasant. My fellow band members do not remember a thing about me disappearing. They too blacked out, but remember waking up 10 minutes later. They did not know where I went. They were completely baffled. Could you imagine their surprise when they found me two days later, lying down naked on our porch? Luckily, we have a house in a very secluded area and no one saw me in the state I was. I went to my doctor, and he could not explain the scars. I talked to the police, and they blew me off. What the heck, I'm just a long haired bar musician, right? I must be a druggie or an alcoholic, right? It's been very frustrating. I've even tried talking to some friends. No one but my friends in our band seem to believe me.

"During the third week of February, I had a strange visit by three very pale, very bald men in black suits. At first glance,

they kind of looked Oriental, but a closer look let me know that they were not Oriental at all. I was sitting on our porch, sipping on a soda. It was a Saturday afternoon. A black, late model Cadillac pulled up in front of our house, and the three guys got out of the car. They moved rather slowly and methodically. They were stiff and emotionless, almost like robots. The lead man blurted out my name. I replied, 'Yes?' The second man told me that they were with the FBI, and that I had to accompany them to their office to answer a few questions. They produced some ID and badges. I got into the Cadillac, hesitantly. The first thing I noticed was that even though it was a '78 model, the damn car smelled brand new! The lead man drove, while I sat in the back seat, with one man on either side of me. They basically drove me up toward Los Angeles and then back down to where I live. One big circle. During the ride, I was warned not to continue talking about my alien abduction. They showed me picture after picture of what happens to people who do not comply. Each picture was a grisly display of dismembered corpses, decapitated heads and so forth. They also had a small television in the car, and showed me some sick video footage of them killing people, supposedly people who did not heed their warning. I tried to force my way out of the car at a stoplight, but one guy put a grip on me that a bear could not break out of. His hands were cold. 'You'll be out of this car in due time,' he told me. 'Be patient.' After half an hour of warnings and show and tell pictures, they dropped me back off at my house. By that time, my bandmates had come back home. They saw the car pull up, and saw me get out. By the time they ran out of the house, the car was pulling away. They caught the license plate number. We called the police, and the FBI, but they say that no such plate is registered in California or with the FBI. I'm trying to spread this story around anonymously, hoping that those guys won't come back. I don't know what to do. My life hasn't been the same ever since. Should I just shut up? Where should I turn?"²⁴

— While preparing this book, I contacted via telephone a veteran UFO researcher who had experienced two Men in Black encounters, and had investigated others. Since a friend of his

vouched for me, the man was eager to share his information. He promised to get busy at the first opportunity, and to send me an audiotape and any other materials he had on the topic.

Nearing the completion of the book, I still had not received the promised reports, and so I called the man up. He was extremely distraught, and recounted a number of terrible things that had happened to him since he had promised to help me, the worst being that his teenaged son had disappeared for a month, only to return during that week unable to account for where he had been. I suggested to the man that I didn't want to put him under any duress, and would understand if he couldn't contribute to the book, but that if he did want to make the audiotape and send it, there was still time for the information to be included. He said that he would see if anything negative happened in response to our present conversation.

Early on the morning of September 2, 1996, I was woken by a phone call. According to the researcher, investigation had shown that his son had been abducted by aliens, and he didn't feel he could risk sending me the promised information. The man was frantic. I assured him that I understood his position.

The above accounts comprise the bulky bag of "impossible" MIB encounters, ones that would have been difficult to have been hoaxed by government or civilians, as well as a few accounts that defy definition. But is there such a thing as an encounter with a "real" MIB? What remains beyond the great cosmic "Huh?"

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Deciphering the Nightmare

RG. Owen comments on some of the limitations of “science” when it has become a religion:

The successes of science are due to its careful observation of its limitations. It confines itself to the quantitative and mechanical and does not presume to speak about spirit, values, and freedom; it understands that there may be vast areas of reality that lie beyond its reach. Science, however, because of its accomplishments, has acquired tremendous prestige and has risen in spite of itself to a position of predominant authority in our age. As a result of this exaltation, science, in some quarters, has come to be worshipped as omniscient, omnipotent, and the bearer of man’s salvation. Such an attitude to science is, of course, entirely unscientific. It must be carefully distinguished from science proper. We may call it scientism or scientolatry. This peculiarly modern form of idolatry refuses to recognize the limitation of science and claims that its working principles can be used as universal principles, in terms of which the whole of reality can be explained and controlled. Scientism thus transforms the limiting principles of science into all-embracing dogmas which are regarded as absolute and final truths.

Scientology [i.e. scientism] therefore, claims that it can solve all problems ‘scientifically.’ ...But when the limits of science are disregarded, when science becomes an absolute authority, when its principles are first converted into the generalized assumptions of a prevailing tradition and then articulated in the all-embracing dogmas of a pseudoscientific metaphysics, then men find

themselves, at the end of the scientific age, not free but enslaved in new and more terrible forms of bondage.¹

I expect that we will not be prepared intellectually to deal with the residue of “impossible” MIB encounters if we hew to strict scientific materialism — and provincialism — of the type so often foisted upon us by university drudges. This orientation does not, in fact, reflect the viewpoint of the most imaginative of current scientists, who acknowledge the near-irrationality of “reality.” As Gary Zukav writes in *The Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics*:

The development of physics in the twentieth century already has transformed the consciousness of those involved with it. The study of complementarity, the uncertainty principle, quantum field theory, and the Copenhagen Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics produces insights into the nature of reality very similar to those produced by the study of eastern philosophy. The profound physicists of this century increasingly have become aware that they are confronting the ineffable.²

It seems to me that, with the so-called “scientific” view, we have constructed a picture of the universe as a members-only island, rejecting all fact and supposition that does not conform to scientific reality, whatever that might be. We isolate ourselves from the strange unruliness of nature and the mind, much as the well-to-do segments of contemporary society isolate themselves from ghetto culture. This approach finds a correlate in psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich’s concept of character armoring, i.e., body rigidities that resist the free flow of energies through the human organism. Scientism, mostly, is an attempt to dominate the universe by being able to predict it — and these attempts often fall short of true understanding.

The “impossible” material that I have chronicled in the previous chapter suggests a strange possibility, that the MIB (and other UFO and supernatural-related encounters) in at least some instances are actual “supernatural” occurrences, evading the rationales of science, and that they perhaps walk a fine line

between physical reality and thought or awareness. Although I am not suggesting that the Men in Black are an illusory experience, I will also not pledge that they are always completely, materially, solidly "real," either. Evidence suggests that some experiences of the MIBs challenge tightly formulated definitions of reality, and may even point up the deficiencies in those definitions. MIBs and many other paranormal events happily cross these lines of demarcation, defying the definitions, and the manner in which they do so incidentally provides clues to something else entirely: the actual nature of reality.

"Reality." The word happens to be a semantic absurdity. According to my American Heritage dictionary, reality is, "The quality or state of being actual or true." Very nice. Of course, when you look up "actual" or "true," you find those defined as, "consistent with reality." The definitions go in a circle, and are never grounded in anything that is independently verifiable. The only way that one can prove something is with a separate and verifiable existence, a disinterested measuring stick or comparison. With "reality," I'd like to know what that would be.

MIB cases that routinely seem to violate the conditions we think of as 'reality' point to a somewhat novel possibility: that there is no such thing, that reality is a convenient fiction invented to reassure us that the deck will remain under our feet within an infinitely strange universe.

It may be that the mystery of the MIB is only solved by dissolving the paradigm generally assumed for the answer: that their existence must somehow fit into commonplace reality, must be explainable in terms of mundane experience. This may be the unnoticed arbitrary that stymies our attempts to grapple with a percentage of MIB encounters: the belief that there is such a thing as reality.

My own experience suggests that there is an in-between realm in this universe or omniverse where thought and matter meet, as in the paradoxical graphics of the Dutch artist M.C. Escher. In his drawings, thought and matter coalesce and partake of each other, and matter manifests from pure aware-

ness. Was Escher mad, or was he exploring possibilities too rarified for the priesthood of science to grasp?

The field where MIB and UFOs sometimes perform their feats of manifestation is what might loosely be called awareness or the mind. I am not limiting "mind" to the purely physical conception, the computer you consider resides behind your forehead or the electrical activity bubbling in your brain pan. My own experience suggests that awareness is in fact not ultimately limited to residency in a meat body. Anyone who has had experience with meditation, hallucinogens, sense deprivation tanking, ritual magic, or who has had good sex may have a sense of this.

In my own experience, awareness has no limits whatsoever, beyond the limitations it contrives for itself. Awareness is potentially a creator, a source of realities, and it creates freedoms and barriers for itself to experience. Awareness creates its conception of itself, which it then proceeds to be. I will not particularly try to prove this beyond saying that I have had out-of-body experiences and alternate dimension experiences and they were very real to me. I am simply trying to get you to entertain the notion that awareness may not come from any existing materiality or solidity or atoms or such.

The horrible thing, in my opinion, is that you create your own reality entirely. You create yourself according to whatever template you choose, in whatever body you choose, with whatever emotions you choose, on whatever planet you choose, based upon your prior belief structures. It follows that if you create your own reality, then you may change your beliefs about what you can and cannot do, can and cannot experience, can and cannot feel, and that you will be able to restructure your reality and experience into anything that you wish.

Again, Gary Zukav comes pretty close to the answer, in *The Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics*:

'Reality' is what we take to be true. What we take to be true is what we believe. What we believe is based upon our perceptions. What we perceive depends upon what we look for. What we look for depends upon what we think. What we think depends upon what

we perceive. What we perceive determines what we believe. What we believe determines what we take to be true. What we take to be true is our reality.³

Once you exercise your ability to mold and transform your subjective impressions, you'll also be exercising your ability to transform your reality. You'll reach the point where you can change your reality and everyone else's in whatever manner you wish.

It might seem to be a contradiction that you can change another person's reality, but it isn't. The reason it seems that way is that you are identifying your awareness with the limited definition of fixation in a physical body. In my experience, there really is no "other" whose reality toes you will step on if you get too frisky with your reality play. What there is, apparently, is one unlimited awareness choosing to inhabit a multitude of bodies and dimensions and worlds simultaneously and with complete cognizance. At least until you change that conception.

The truth about reality, bottom line, is that there ain't no such beast. Reality is only a contingency of an awareness which has a free reign in the choice of what is and what is also ran. The fact that ten or a thousand people believe the same thing does not establish the thing as being any more real — but it does point out the structural underpinning, the determinant of this illusion called reality — and what causes it to manifest in the shapes that it does.

Michael Talbot writes,

Are these other realities actually places as we conceive of them or do they exist within our heads? In the paradigm of reality offered by both mysticism and the new physics, such a question becomes meaningless... The universe itself is not a place in the paradigm of the new physics. As Don Juan warns, there is no world 'out there,' only a description of the world. With the advent of the participator principle [of physics] the entire matter-space-time continuum of the physical universe becomes merely a state of being.⁴

For instance: people who study the conspiracies behind the

world. You delve into this subject and it becomes quite apparent that the world is run along conspiratorial lines; Rockefeller, Rothschilds, regardless of what Rush says. But the conspiracy worldview is outvoted by the pundits of the media and the educational system, and so it's not true, it's not real, it's crazy, it's paranoid.

The opposite of the coin is the woman who slaps the psychiatrist's face after he shows her a Rorschach blot. She's reading meaning into a nondescript, neutral, or monotone event, and she's furiously blushing. It's like Richard Shaver, the inner Earth contactee during the late forties and fifties who used to find rocks which he would maintain, when cut open, were imprinted with photos and messages engraved in them by an ancient race as a hedge against eternity. Belief defines and structures our experience, and determines it, perhaps right down to the solidity of the table, and our location in time and space, and the fact that there is time and space.

But what about the fact that many Men in Black experiences, and UFO experiences in general, are truly horrible? People sometimes die in these guys' company, and who would create such an experience for themselves? That keys back into the nature of reality and the human condition as a puny meat body on a backwater planet around a third-rate star. It occurred to me that a real reality — something that you know for certain is true, even horrible — is far more satisfying to mass consciousness than simply a dream, or a work of art, or a movie. It's more involving for awareness to be a participant in a true story, one that even involves its own simulated death. That's what the human body is about: the awareness creating itself solidly inside the drama, the awareness play, making itself a solid portion of the play so that the drama is really involving, really real. Shakespeare knew what he was talking about when he called the world a stage. The awareness, with death, even creates for itself the illusion that when the reality creation ends, when the structuralization or localized nexus ends, then the awareness ceases to exist. That doesn't actually seem to be the case. What ceases is the fixation within this context. The solid creation of

the human body — pinch me so that I know I'm not dreaming — is based upon interest. So long as you are an omniscient awareness which exists outside of its creation, knowingly having created that reality or game, it's not half so interesting and immediate.

I would say that every aspect of our experience, even that we experience, is based upon belief, and that by taking a gradient or step-by-step approach to belief, by examining what we do and don't believe, we can change our experience. I think that with this rough beast called reality we are imprinting upon a neutral field, creating meaning where there is none, and that this phenomenon of manifestation through meaning can also be noted in instances of UFO and MIB contact.

The clinical psychiatrist Van Dusen observed inmates at a mental hospital in Ukiah, California, and categorized their interior 'verbal hallucinations.' Some of the voices that the inmates heard were characterized by them as advanced beings passing on wisdom to the patient, but the majority were not benign.

"Lower order voices are similar to drunken bums at a bar who like to tease and torment just for the fun of it. They suggest lewd acts and then scold the patient for considering them. They find a weak point of conscience and work on it interminably... They call the patient every conceivable name, suggest every lewd act, steal memories right out of consciousness, threaten death, and work on the patient's credibility in every way."

Van Dusen's patients even invented names for the beings that they presumed were the source of the voices, calling them "the Other Order" and "the Eavesdroppers." Van Dusen likens these interior voices to the spirits of legend:

"Lower-order hallucinations act against the patient's will, and are extremely verbal, persistent, attacking, and malevolent. They use trickery to deceive the patient as to their powers, and threaten, cajole, entreat, and undermine in every conceivable way. These are all characteristics of possession by evil spirits."⁵ Although we create our own world on a moment-to-moment basis, we choose to be ignorant of that fact. I believe that it is

quite possible that many of the experiences of Men in Black are manifestations of that denial of our own creation. The Men in Black are the walking embodiment of the overwhelm and horror of the UFO experience (or, for that matter, of the witchcraft experience). How else to explain the repetition of characteristic MIB details throughout history? They are a stuck and repetitive dramatization of consciousness — like a recurrent dream — in much the same way that rebirth into another physical body after death also seems to be.

By saying that we create the Men in Black experiences, am I suggesting that they are merely hallucinations? No more so than the hallucination that we call Earth or that we call ourselves. The bottom line of reality is that it is a dream. And the Men in Black in their paranormal manifestation, naturally, are a nightmare.

NOTES:

1. Owen, R.G. *Scientism, Man, and Religion*, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1952
2. Zukav, Gary. *The Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics*. William Morrow, New York, 1979
3. Ibid.
4. Talbot, Michael. *Mysticism and the New Physics*, Bantam Books, New York, 1980
5. Van Dusen, Wilson. *The Presence of Other Worlds*, New York, Swedenborg Foundation, 1974

Manifestation

A mechanical way in which the Men in Black may manifest below theoretically unfettered awareness is as a reaction to trauma, most specifically, that of witnessing a UFO. We can conceive that the human organism is sometimes unable to neurologically incorporate paranormal or UFO experience, and so externalizes and dramatizes a portion of the effect in the environment: the externalization of terror. It has been noted that the human organism when threatened, obsessively creates imagery; this is the "pink elephant" phenomenon (in this case, a reaction to alcohol poisoning).

As Kenneth Grant expressed the occultist view, "Any discharge of energy, of any kind, has an effect on all planes. If results on one plane are balked — as would happen in the case of the incubus [or demonic entity] — then they appear on another."¹ Another way in which the MIBs may manifest is through the repression or inversion of life energy, the energies of sexuality in particular. It has long been considered in occultism that sex is the vessel of the primary creative energy in man, as witness the sexual rituals employed by such magicians as Crowley, Parsons, and Grant. Returning to Grant,

Objurgations against masturbation, onanism, coitus interruptus, karezza and other apparently sterile methods of using sexual energy, follow logically upon awareness (however consciously unacknowledged this awareness may be) of the sacramental nature of the generative act. Erroneous conclusions drawn from incomplete apprehension of the factors involved led in the past to the 'fire and brimstone' admonitions directed against

'abuses,' which at one time were thought to lead to degeneration of the nervous system, blindness, paralysis and insanity. In actual fact, none of the energy is lost, though it fails to find a field of operation in the matrix which nature has provided for it. It breeds, instead of physical offspring, phantoms composed of tenuous matter. Through the deliberate and persistent practice of such 'abuses,' qliphotic entities [or shades from astral planes] are engendered; they prey upon the mind and feed upon the nervous fluid.²

Crowley notes,

The ancient Jewish Rabbis knew this, and taught that before Eve was given to Adam the demon Lilith was conceived by the spilt of his dreams, so that the hybrid race of satyrs, elves, and the like began to populate those secret places of the earth which are not sensible to the organs of the normal man.³

It has long been noted that poltergeist activity generally manifests in the environments of pubescent children. One may conjecture that this takes place because the burgeoning energy of sexuality is sublimated and externalized in the environment, through the same mechanism that UFO terror may sometimes be externalized.

Again, Kenneth Grant speaks of the astral forms created by sexuality:

That which ejaculates as semen is unabsorbed energy (prana or ojas), and it always contributes to the creation of material forms, whether lodged in a womb or not. If not, the overflow (as in masturbation, fellatio, etc.) is taken up by astral and qliphotic [or demonic] entities and built into organisms already existing upon the subtle planes. Paracelsus refers to homunculi (artificially generated creatures) made from sperm independent of the female organism, and to astral larvae and parasitic monsters built out of the substance of voluptuous imaginings.⁴

The phenomenon of stigmata, that is, the appearance of the wounds of Jesus upon the bodies of religious devotees, would seem to occur in a similar fashion: the externalization of

energies repressed in the celibate and shaped by his religious obsession. I am reminded of the famous jazz musician Billy Tipton, who lived, unbeknownst to her wife and adopted children, as a man for many years, and whose sexuality was only revealed after her death. At one point, unfortunately too late for the anomalist Charles Fort to chronicle, Tipton's house was repeatedly and unexplainably showered with rocks that fell from the sky.

NOTES:

1. Grant, Kenneth. *The Magical Revival*, Skoob Books Publishing, London, 1991
2. Ibid.
3. Crowley, Aleister. Quoted in *The Magical Revival*.
4. Grant

Conclusion

Fade to Black

As in the study of UFOs, one of the reasons that the Men in Black experience is difficult to define and understand is that there are a number of origins behind the encounters. People naively assume that there is one explanation for the Men in Black, latching on to the one they are most comfortable with or that they find most entertaining, and then insist that a single explanation covers all of the bases. Apparently, however, there are a number of origins and influences for these incidents. Evidence suggests that there are a minimum of six possible explanations for the Men in Black, forming a kind of interwoven and “evolving reality.” One paranormal manifestation similarly demonstrating an “evolving reality” is that of contact with the “grey aliens,” the bug-eyed creatures that now infest the nightmares of a significant portion of the American populace. Although, again, I am not suggesting that aliens are not real at some level or levels (I had a terrifying experience with one in 1972 that seemed real enough to me), the experience can be shown to change and mutate with time and with the propagation and transformation of information. In their classic mode, grey aliens are little seen until the early 1950s, when movies such as “War of the Worlds,” “Invasion of the Saucer Men,” and “The Man from Planet X” were produced. It was at this time that the bodily structure of the creatures was clearly defined (primarily by Hollywood art directors), then objectified in the public consciousness as the face of the unknown. With time, the “blonde Aryans” of contactees like George Adamski were mostly phased out by the big-headed, big-eyed greys. The alien abduction and clinical examination motif, similarly, is

virtually unknown until the media picked up the story of Betty and Barney Hill in the 1960s. Now the world teems with spacemen performing invasive hi-tech orifice probings. I contend that these are fluid phenomena, having some objective reality, yet influenced in their perception and interpretation by an evolving imagery.

It is quite probable, then, that the Men in Black experience is also an evolving reality influenced by the mindset of the time (prior to the 20th century, MIBs were demons), by urban legendry, and by the media. I believe that in some cases, again, they do have a paranormal yet objective existence, but our perception of that existence has apparently been influenced and added to by the activities of men like Ray Palmer Jr., Albert K. Bender, Gray Barker, John Keel, and others. And with the appearance of a new movie on the subject in 1997, titled "Men in Black," their visitations will probably soon rival in number those of grey aliens.

The major sources of the MIB experience that I have isolated follow:

Government

The U.S. government has been involved in monitoring and harassing witnesses of UFO phenomena since the earliest days of its public notoriety, in the late 1940s. Part of their activities may involve copycatting the weirder MIB encounters by wearing black suits, driving black cars, and perhaps engaging in other weird harassment techniques, including delivering electronic sounds over the telephone. The purpose of this, quite simply, is to scare the wits out of UFO observers and contactees, but also in some instances to confuse the origin of high-tech aerial craft tested, particularly, in the U.S.

It is also quite possible that an agency or agencies of the government has staged faked landings and abductions, sometimes in conjunction with the administering of hallucinogenic drugs, possibly in experiments to gauge public reaction or in MKUltra-like mind control manipulation.

A subset of MIB incidents is the Oriental group. The

frequency of Oriental MIBs suggest that they may be members of an actual secret society, such as that of Tibetans who were brought into the country by the CIA in the early 1950s. It is not unlikely, although unproven at this time, that there is an Oriental contingent within American military intelligence, as evidenced by occasional sightings of black unmarked helicopters manned by Orientals.

Researcher Scott Corrales has been so specific as to say that the Oriental contingent are, "Tibetan monks who followed Dalai Lama and the Khamba riders into exile, giving their uncanny abilities to the CIA." He may be right.¹

The Black Lodge

Some Men in Black may be members of occult lodges, possibly the flip side of the philosophical coin of the so-called White Brotherhood. Many famous UFO contactees and researchers have been involved with occultism, and some of these researchers had political intelligence connections, adding further dimensions as military intelligence, occultism, and ufological pursuits intertwine and fracture.

Hoaxers

Muddying the MIB waters are the activities of hoaxers, including many of the more well-known members of the UFO "research" community. Some of these hoaxers may be associated with occult or military intelligence bodies, while others seem to just be having malicious fun.

Delusion

Humans (but especially UFO hobbyists) are prone to delusion, misperception, and fish stories. Many MIB sightings are no doubt paranoid delusions where commonplace events are interpreted within the context of MIB mythology.

Media

Influencing all of the above categories of the experience are

media representations of the MIBs, the most influential being those of Ray Palmer Jr., Albert K. Bender, Gray Barker, Tim Beckley, and John Keel. I do not believe that the work of media upon easily influenced minds is the source of all MIB experience, but I believe that it is a significant factor in many incidents, and may provide a shaping force for the defining of amorphous or traumatic events, some of them of a paranormal character.

The Supernatural Men in Black

Finally, there seems to be an actual MIB experience that is unexplainable in terms of strict materialism, or known data; that cannot be reduced to materialistic causation. These Men in Black manifest in seamless progression throughout the ages, unchanged for the most part except for the definitions that we apply to them. In ancient times they were fairies and trolls and demons, now they are the "UFO silencers," "deros," or Hubbard's "Marcabians."

They exist as an archetypal image of fear, not so different than the monster of the Id, posited by Ray Bradbury in the classic science fiction film "Forbidden Planet." But do the Men in Black have a definable existence of their own, other than as a symbol of terror? I believe they do.

Ultimately, the answer may be a simplicity. Perhaps in at least some cases the Men in Black are simply the Men in Black, and our data and definitions are not sophisticated enough to encompass them. In certain cases they do not seem to be human. In certain cases their behavior seems to violate commonly perceived 'reality.'

Other characteristics of the MIBs occur frequently:

1. Naturally, they dress in black. They also often drive black cars, with Cadillacs (sometimes old ones) as their apparent vehicle of choice. In recent years their mode of transportation has occasionally been augmented by black unmarked helicopters.
2. They attempt to silence UFO witnesses.

3. Many of the MIBs are Oriental, or Oriental-appearing, with slanted eyes and dark skin.

4. They are often tall, and sometimes have unnaturally long fingers. As the witch Isobel Gowdie said, "His members are exceeding great and long..."

5. Some walk in stiff, mechanical fashion, while others sound like machines when they talk. Sometimes their energy runs down and they must leave in a hurry.

6. They frequently wear 'eye in the triangle' insignia, or have them emblazoned on their cars.

These are strange characteristics which, upon consideration, do not provide answers about who these creatures are or where they come from. Perhaps they have little truck with mankind, except for these isolated incidents of pregnant strangeness of the sort that I have collected in this book. In all probability, we simply have not learned enough about the Men in Black other than to say that they exist, and are extraordinarily weird.

If we grant the possibility that certain examples of the MIB experience are paranormal, then that at least some of them are an essentially unknown lifeform with extremely strange racial characteristics is the rough extent of what can be said about them at this time. Whatever they are, their existence suggests that there is another, far stranger world 'out there' where our simple concepts of "reality" do not always reign.

This is the world more real than the 'real world.' It is the world that authors Charles Fort, Philip K. Dick, H.P. Lovecraft, John Keel, Kenneth Grant, and others have documented with heroism and strange poetry. It is the world that the psych-cops and Psicops of scientism desperately try to protect us (and presumably themselves) from, steadfastly denying the reality of anything other than the mundane and the two-party system.

With the Men in Black one finally ends up with the conviction that "reality" may not be all that it is cracked up to be, and that we may live in a macabre comic book substitute for a world,

brainstormed and inked by a low variety of chaos trickster...
...perhaps the Men in Black themselves.

NOTES:

1. Corrales, Scott. "Black Cars at Night: The Men in Black Reanimated," *Popular Alienation*, ed. Kenn Thomas, IllumiNet Press, Lilburn, Georgia, 1995

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JIM KEITH

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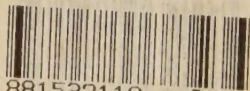
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